

# Independent woman sets bar high in search for Mr. Right

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a single woman who has had a string of unsuccessful relationships. When a man is into me, I'm not into him and vice versa.

I know the problem is mostly mine. I'm very independent. I don't want a man to consume my life – just be a part of it. It seems like the men I date want to smother me.

My friends tell me that most women enjoy this. I hate it. I need a certain amount of time alone. I am attracted to manly men, but the ones who are attracted to me are either emotionally needy or they take longer to get ready to go anywhere than I do. It's frustrating.

I have met some men who would have been wonderful catches, but I felt nothing. I know friendship is the basis of all relationships, but physical attraction is important to me. A relationship won't work if I can't bring myself to be intimate with the person.

In all my years of dating, I have been in love only twice. Any help would be appreciated. — **LOST IN WASHINGTON STATE**

**DEAR LOST:** I wish I had a magic lamp that would give you what you're looking for in a puff of smoke, but I don't. What I can offer is that you need to continue looking for someone who is as independent as you are, so you can find an attractive man whose needs are similar to yours.

Some couples find the process of dating a smooth and easy one. For others it's



DEAR ABBY

complicated, but not impossible. I agree that the basis of strong relationships is friendship and compatibility.

**DEAR ABBY:** How does one stop family and old friends from going on and on about their aches, pains, symptoms, conditions, doctor visits and medications in excruciating detail? Aside from my mother (who is 85), I don't care to hear about this from others. It has taught me a lesson I wish people would follow: While I do have back issues, I speak of them only to my doctor.

I try to be patient, but some folks seem to need someone to vent to. I don't want to be the one they "tell all" to. I try to tune it out, but I wish there was an easy way to let them know enough is enough.

Any ideas on the best way to handle these people? Or am I stuck being a good listener forever? — **NOBODY'S THERAPIST IN CROFTON, MD.**

**DEAR NOBODY'S THERAPIST:** Try this: Say, "Really, I'm sorry to hear that." Then change the

subject to something you read in the newspaper, saw on television or that's happening in your community.

**DEAR ABBY:** Tell me what you would have done in this situation. While dining at an expensive restaurant on a rare night out, we were seated directly across from a nice-looking family. As I was eating my meal, I had a nauseating view of their child's butt crease. The boy was about 12 or 14, and I didn't want to embarrass him in a public place, but it put a damper on my enjoyment of the meal.

Would it have been appropriate to approach his mother and quietly tell her? Obviously, the kid didn't know or care that he was exposed. The restaurant was full, so I couldn't request another table. — **LOST MY APPETITE IN MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.**

**DEAR LOST YOUR APPETITE:** The first thing I would have done was resist the urge to walk over and plant a stalk of celery in the great divide. And then, because moving to another table wasn't possible, I would have moved my chair so that the view of the young man's cleavage wouldn't have been "head 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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

	9	3				6	8	
2								7
8		6	3		2	1		4
			4	3	8			
	2						7	
			7	2	5			
3		7	2		9	8		1
9								3
	8	4				2	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](http://www.sudoku.com) to find the solution.

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

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, seek the advice of a mentor or confidante when a puzzling situation presents itself this week. Another person's perspective might be all you need to solve this problem.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, getting the job done just isn't enough. You always need to get it done to the best of your ability and that's why others find you so reliable.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, focus your energy on work this week, as a possible promotion is looming over the horizon. Give work your best efforts, and you will soon be glad you did.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, sometimes the key to success is to know when to step back and recharge. This week, spend some time resting and relaxing, and you will have the energy needed to go forward.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may be looking for something new to occupy your time. Try learning a new sport or language. It will keep your brain sharp and pass the time in a productive way.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, this week is a great time to stop procrastinating and to get back on track. Figure out a time when you have the most energy, and dive right into the task at hand.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, get behind a cause that will benefit your community. You have been interested in giving back to others, and this week presents a great opportunity to do just that.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you love to socialize with friends and family, but lately time has been hard to come by. Plan a get-together with friends and family.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you can handle difficult situations with ease and your loved ones know it. When such a situation presents itself this week, don't be afraid to take charge.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, others trust what you have to say and want to follow along with your guidance. Cherish this trust and think carefully before making decisions that affect your loved ones.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, sort out an ongoing issue that has been compromising your focus at work. Once you clear your mind, you can once again focus on your career.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you may find yourself spending more time with your social circle than your family in the next few days.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 10  
Miranda Lambert, Singer (30)

NOVEMBER 11  
Leonardo DiCaprio, Actor (39)

NOVEMBER 12  
Ryan Gosling, Actor (33)

NOVEMBER 13  
Jimmy Kimmel, TV host (46)

NOVEMBER 14  
Patrick Warburton, Actor (49)

NOVEMBER 15  
Ed Asner, Actor (84)

NOVEMBER 16  
Missi Pyle, Actress (41)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Lip

1 Strong

wind

5 Outstanding

9 Kick back

10 "American Buffalo"

playwright

12 Caper

13 Durance

of "Smallville"

14 Being rude,

in a way

16 Writer

Deighton

17 Luau dish

18 Flying high

20 Icy

dessert

22 Feedbag

fill

23 Threw in

25 1975

Wimbledon

champ

28 Like some

training

32 Frugal

34 Narc's

org.

35 Shoe hue

36 White-hot

38 Collectible

car

40 Silly one

41 "Superman" star

42 Computer

key

43 Louver

piece

### DOWN

1 Long-tailed

penguin

2 Star in

Aquila

3 Comfy

home

4 Removed

surgically

5 Last

letter

6 Kids' card

game

7 Clarke of

"Game of Thrones"

8 Respectable

9 Grating

sounds

11 Distinct

flavors

15 Contrary

to good

manners

19 Reactor

parts

21 Boxer

Buddy

24 Hires

25 Showy

flower

26 Black suit

27 Gingerbread

eater

29 Blockheads

30 Past,

present,

and future

31 Raring to

go

33 Key

37 Writer

Jaffe

39 Longoria

of TV

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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			
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25	26	27				28			29	30	31
32						33				34	
35						36			37		
38				39				40			
41								42			
	43							44			

11-9

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Second

baseman

Santiago

6 Instrument

with 46

strings

10 Un-

escorted

11 Love to

pieces

13 Heiress, at

times

14 Miller's

salesman

15 Cain's

mother

16 Behold

18 Picnic pest

19 Canadian's

use of

30-Across

22 Chemist's

place

23 Layer

24 Linda of

"Alice"

27 Burdens

28 Give off

29 Singer

Jones

30 November

event

35 Historic

time

36 Embrace

37 Poem of

praise

38 Uncertain

state

40 "Mister

Roberts"

star

42 Des-

cendant

43 Pick from

the menu

44 Writer

Rice

45 Invasions

### DOWN

1 Less

refined

2 Full of

energy

3 Internet

connector

4 Lennon's

wife

5 Cronkite,

for one

6 More

robust

7 Commotion

8 Hungary

neighbor

9 Cavorted

12 Comes

badly

in

17 Flow out

D	O	C	K		P	A	C	T	S
A	P	H	I	D		A	B	O	U
M	E	A	D	E		P	E	N	N
U	R	N		S	P	A	T	T	E
P	A	T	T	E		U	S	E	
					E	R	O	S	I
					P	A	N	T	A
F	I	N		S	O	F	A		
A	N	T		N	A	T	T	E	R
S	C	A	T	T	E	R		A	V
T	H	R	E	E		I	D	T	A
E	M	E	N	D		S	U	E	D
N	E	S	T	S		O	R	E	S

Previous Puzzle

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	
10										
13										
15				16	17			18		
19			20					21		
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38		39				40	41			
42							43			
	44						45			