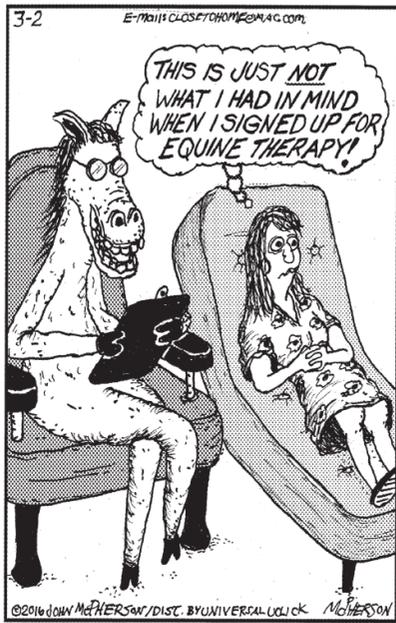


CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Woman's past makes fiance doubtful

Dear Abby: My fiancee and I have known each other since high school. I was the "good kid" with honors and the right parents. She was considered trouble and didn't have the best home life.

Rumor had it that she moonlighted as a stripper our senior year, but I always blew it off as false.

Fast-forward 12 years: I ran into her recently, and we decided to have dinner. I fell in love with her on that date.

A few months went by and I mentioned the rumors. She wasn't upset and matter-of-factly explained that she did start stripping in high school and continued through college. It bothered me, but the benefits of being with her far outweighed the negatives.

Now that we are engaged, she told me she had to "come clean." She said there were times in college when she had sex with some of her regular clients.

I am floored. She basically admitted she had prostituted herself. I don't know what to do. I

don't want to blame her for her past indiscretions, but this is a big deal. I don't know how to let it go. Advice, please! — *Guy Who Needs Advice*

Dear Guy: You now see your fiancee clearly — warts and all. The problem with "falling in love" (what I define as infatuation) is that you don't yet know who the person is. Regardless of how your fiancee financed her education, she deserves respect for being honest with you. She has done as much as she can to improve her life.

You must now ask yourself if you can see past her past, and if she is someone you would be happy spending the rest of your life with. Remember, I live in Los Angeles, and in this town, her revelation wouldn't necessarily be a deal-breaker.

Dear Abby: I met a guy named "Ryan" about 10 weeks ago. We hit it off right away. I admit I had a little crush on him.

About a week after we met, he came out to a group of our mutual friends (me included) as gay. I'm very supportive of him, and it didn't change anything between us at all. Over

the last several weeks, we have grown to be best friends and continue to grow closer and closer.

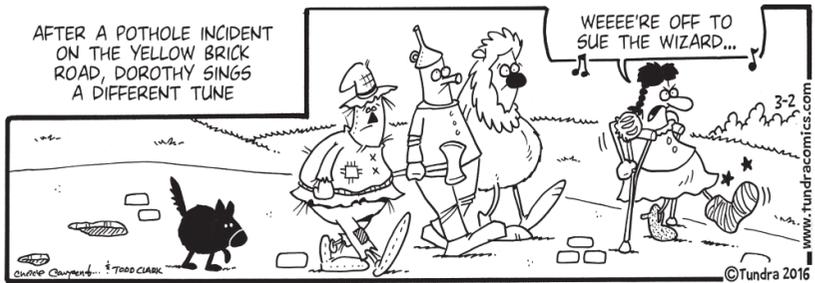
Once I found out Ryan was gay, the rational and practical part of me took over and squashed the crush I had on him in the beginning. But now that feeling is coming back even stronger.

I know our relationship can never be anything more than platonic. I guess I'm just asking how I can get over him while still maintaining our close friendship, because ultimately, that means the world to me, and I don't want to lose it. — *Friend Only, in Washington, D.C.*

Dear Friend Only: It's not easy to think rationally when emotions are involved. Ryan may have everything you want in a man, but he will not be a romantic partner for you. If spending time around him becomes too painful, you may have to put some distance between the two of you until you regain your emotional balance.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's important to believe, but if you believe too firmly, you'll miss something crucial that comes with doubt. That would be bad for everyone. "Absolute faith corrupts as absolutely as absolute power." — Eric Hoffer

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't let anyone tell you that without the current set of problems, happiness would prevail. Wrong. The current problems are part of the happiness, as long as you have the ability to overcome them — which you do!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your work is subtle and classy today, but make no mistake, you are changing things. It's all different because of you! Every person you talk to is an opportunity to make your mark on the world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Give yourself more time to play around with ideas and try things on for size. This is especially true in relationship matters, which are best taken at a leisurely pace right now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a right way and a wrong way to ask for things. The only way to tell which is which is to try all the ways. You might be surprised at what is effective — it's not what you would have predicted.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you succeed at something that doesn't matter to you, is it really

a success after all? And if so, whose? Tonight will bring an opportunity to invest your attention and money in the welfare of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Are you really in debt to someone or not? You feel like you are, but you're forgetting all that you've contributed to this person and discounting the currency of your quality attention and talents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Those who travel in a pack, keeping their crew close at all times, will be an intimidating presence on the scene. You're more likely to interact with the lone wolf, as you can relate to fearless individualism.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Using your creativity will be key to your happiness. Tonight: Every question you ask will lead to a better one. And if you don't get an answer, that should tell you something, too!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You could be well-behaved, but you may choose not to be, as things threaten to get deadly boring. You can wake them up, make them laugh and stimulate an appetite in them that they didn't even know they had.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Not everyone in the group is wonderful, but with enough people working toward a noble goal, you'll still get a powerful result. Ignore pettiness, see the big picture and help the others do so as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're strong and you have more to give, you'll be asked to give more. Be careful not to fall into the trap of resenting this. It's an honor bestowed on a few.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY



HOLIDAY MATHS