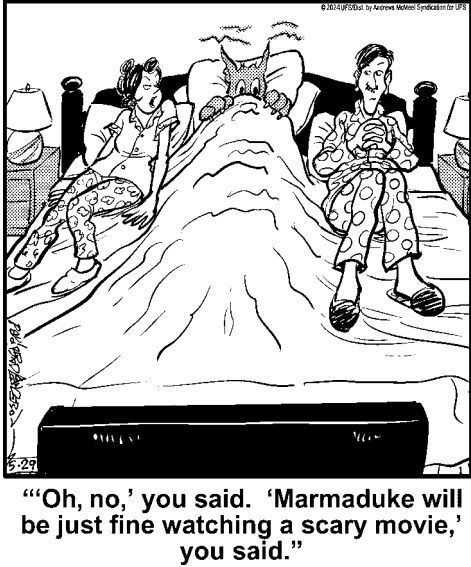


COMICS

MARMADUKE



HERMAN



REALITY CHECK



MODERATELY CONFUSED



FRANK & ERNEST



THE GRIZZWELLS



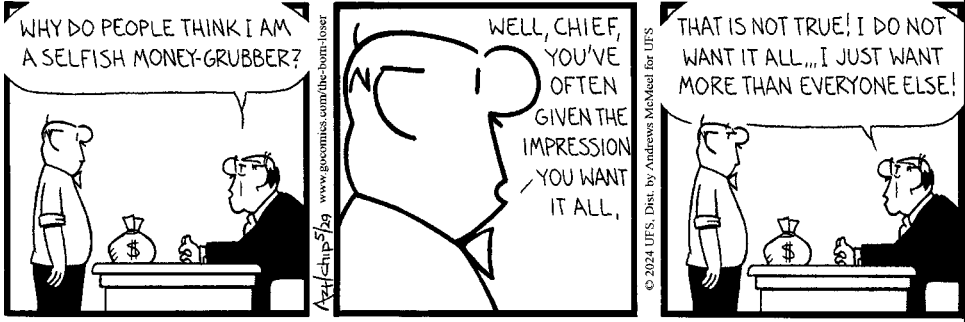
PICKLES



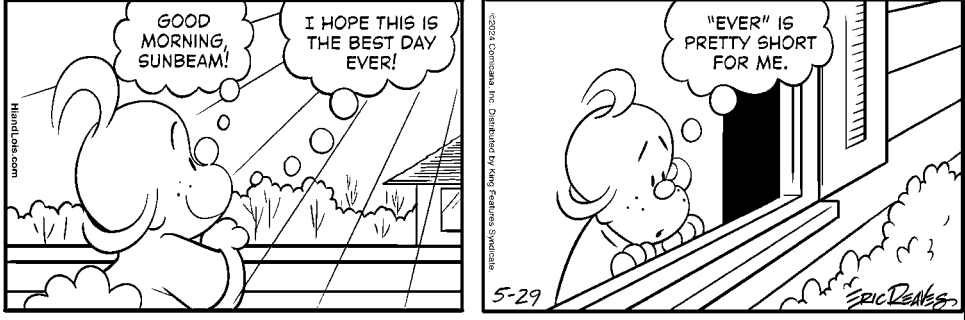
BLONDIE



BORN LOSER



HI AND LOIS



CRABGRASS



In Praise of Mothers-in-Law

Dear Readers: So many of you were relieved that I printed a positive letter about mothers-in-law. Please find some more letters in praise of MIL. I'm sure any mother of a son appreciates these letters.

Dear Annie: I share "Changes" feelings about my mothers-in-law. I, too, won the mother-in-law lottery; twice! My first husband's mother was incredibly supportive even after he left me. She sent me gifts and cards until I remarried. My second husband's mother and stepmother are delightful. They have loved my son from the first marriage with no variation from the biological grandchild; never stepped on my parenting toes; babysat, spoiled and always been there in ways my mother couldn't be because she lived out of state. All three of these ladies had been burned by unkind significant others who really hurt their sons, but that didn't stop them from giving me a chance and opening their hearts.

Let's change that narrative. I'm guessing there's more good mothers-in-law than wicked ones. We just hear about the sensationally and outstandingly bad ones. -- Another Winner!

Dear Annie: Another letter in support of wonderful mothers-in-law. My husband's mom was always just the loveliest person. We were 17 and 18 years old when we started dating, and I felt her warmth from the moment we met. My husband and his younger sister were the youngest of six. The older siblings were married and had children. And I had never seen



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

such happy chaos as when I attended family gatherings. You were family the minute you walked in the door.

The sweetest thing she ever said (and she told me how much she liked me all the time) was when she told me that I had been part of the family so long she often forgot that I wasn't her own daughter! She was a truly special lady, and my life was richer for having her in it. She passed away several years ago and we all miss her. -- Very Loved Daughter-in-law

Dear Annie: I just read a letter from "Change the Narrative" regarding her positive relationship with her mother-in-law, and I couldn't agree more! First, I not only have a wonderful mother but also a wonderful mother-in-law!

I know that's not everyone's story, but I have a feeling that reality exists more than we think; we just don't hear about it as much. The bad always seems to be louder than the good. -- Blessed in Texas

Dear Annie: I loved "Change the Narrative's" mother-in-law story. I grew up with a volatile, abusive and religious zealot (enforced with violence) for a

mother. I have no idea what psychiatric disorder my mom suffered from, but it was a traumatic childhood for me and my siblings.

I met my first husband when I was 18 and fell immediately in love with his Italian family. Once married, my new mom took me under her wing and taught me how to cook and take care of a home. And all with patience and kindness.

I have so many wonderful memories of my time with my new mom. I was loved, praised and, above all, valued. Between her and my father-in-law, I grew from a nervous young wife and mom into a woman who will always be grateful to sing her (and my father-in-law's) praises.

So, thank you, "Change the Narrative." Your experiences brought back so many sweet memories that I am grateful to have. -- Nostalgic and Grateful

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology -- featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Think things through before making a move. Channel your emotions and energy into self-improvements and gains that benefit you instead of getting wrapped up in drama and emotional disputes that put you in a no-win situation. Do your own thing, build a solid base and pay attention to detail and originality this year. Learn from the best, exercise integrity and pace yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Hold tight and do your best. Use your power of persuasion and physical skills to get things done on time and within budget. Pay attention and be meticulous in everything you do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't spend money impulsively or sign up for subscriptions you can't afford. Monitor your finances closely, and diligently budget for what you want and need.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- A change in the dynamics of a relationship will push you to make adjustments. Reach out to someone you trust, and you'll gain the tools you need to make a positive change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Keep life simple. Don't overreact or promise the impossible. Look at every aspect of a situation and make adjustments as you move forward. Don't let your emotions derail your progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Show passion in all you do, and you'll gain acceptance from people who can help further your interests. Networking is in your best interest, along with traveling and learning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Refrain from making unnecessary changes at home. Get your

facts straight and your plans in order before you begin something costly or time-consuming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Look at your options and navigate your way forward with care. Refuse to let anyone pressure you or trick you into something you don't need. Take time to relax; you'll make better decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Don't get angry; get moving. Actions speak louder than words and will bring about positive change. Take the initiative to do something that makes a difference. Don't let your emotions interfere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Focus on what's working for you and put what isn't going smoothly on the shelf for now. Create opportunities instead of expecting them to come to you. Personal improvements will lead to compliments.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Look for the good in every situation and person you encounter. Doing your best to get along will help you gain the freedom to go about your business and do as you please.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Don't let uncertainty hold you back. Shift into high gear and make what you do count. Acts of kindness will bring you into contact with someone who can help you advance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Reconfigure your thoughts to fit your budget, time and skill level, and you will avoid taking on or spending too much. If you want to make progress, update your qualifications.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scottish cap
 - 4 No-sleeves garment
 - 8 Chessman
 - 12 In the style of
 - 13 Fall — line
 - 14 Actor — Arkin
 - 15 Snapshot
 - 16 Small case for small items
 - 17 Yesteryear
 - 18 In that case
 - 20 Bits of grass
 - 22 Actor — McKellen
 - 23 Health resort
 - 24 How-to books
 - 28 Peepers
 - 31 Mineral
 - 32 Pitcher
 - 34 Take it on the —
 - 36 Exclude
 - 37 Money for release
- DOWN**
- 1 Strike gently
 - 2 Dismounted
 - 3 Equipment
- 38 DDE's nickname**
- 39 "Stand —"
 - 41 Feeble light
 - 44 Emmet
 - 46 "To what — owe the pleasure?"
 - 47 Relating to the mind
 - 50 Author — Ferber
 - 52 Chant
 - 53 Doll's cry
 - 55 CBS rival
 - 57 Seed cover
 - 58 Wickedness
 - 59 Light meal
 - 60 Crafted
 - 61 Oceans
 - 62 "A Nightmare on — Street"

Answer to this puzzle

W	T	E		S	V	E	S		E	O	A	W
V	E	L		T	I	V	E		T	I	R	V
C	B	V		V	M	V	M		G	N	I	S
	V	I	D		T	V	I	N	E	W		
	N	O		E		T	N	V				
R	E	W		I	T	G		E	W	A	B	
E	K	I			T	I	V	B		R	V	B
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	S	E	V	E	S	T	V	N	N	V	W	
			V	P	S		N	V				
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N	V	T	V	O	T	N	I		V	T	V	
N	M	V	P	S	T	E	V			M	A	T

- 4 Austria's capital
- 5 Med. specialty
- 6 Bump a toe
- 7 Works
- 8 Busy time at the bank
- 9 — vera
- 10 "Star —"
- 11 Opposite of SSW
- 19 — de cologne
- 21 Mimic
- 24 Mafra
- 25 Elegant horse
- 26 Pasture
- 27 Big swallow
- 29 Do away with
- 30 "For Pete's —!"
- 33 Annex
- 35 Mal de —
- 37 Crooked
- 40 Mutilate
- 42 Standards of perfection
- 43 Old TV's "— Squad"
- 45 Domesticates
- 47 Actress — Sorvino
- 48 Author — Bagnold
- 49 Wash
- 51 Cain's victim
- 52 Uncle —
- 54 Actress — Farrow
- 56 Engine part