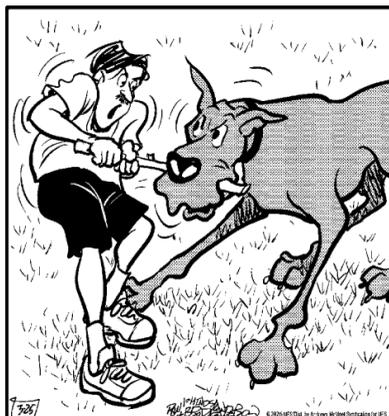


# COMICS

## MARMADUKE



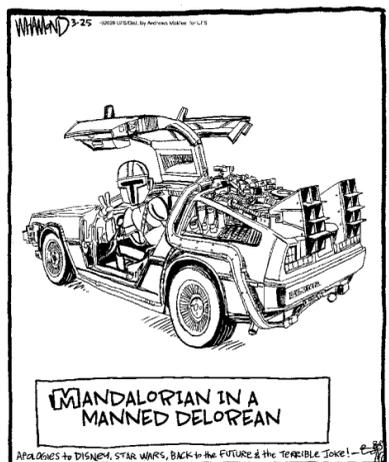
"I can't... throw it... if you don't... let go... of it..."

## HERMAN



"I take it you have the very best medical insurance."

## REALITY CHECK



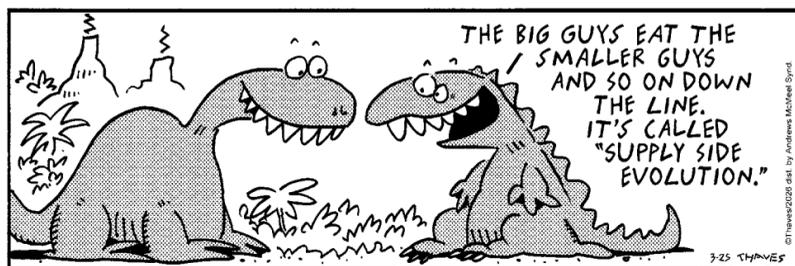
MANDALORIAN IN A MANNED DELOREAN

## MODERATELY CONFUSED



I WISH MY WORKDAY WERE JUST A WORK-MORNING.

## FRANK & ERNEST



THE BIG GUYS EAT THE SMALLER GUYS AND SO ON DOWN THE LINE. IT'S CALLED "SUPPLY SIDE EVOLUTION."

## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PICKLES



## BLONDIE



## BORN LOSER



## HI AND LOIS



## CRABGRASS



# Our Marriage Is Great, But Our Love Has Gone Quiet



ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie

Dear Annie: I have been married for 22 years to a good man. He is faithful, hardworking and, by most people's standards, a wonderful husband. He has never given me any reason to doubt his loyalty, and he has always taken his responsibilities seriously. From the outside, we look like a solid, dependable couple. We raised our children together, built a home, paid the bills and showed up for the holidays, the school concerts and all the ordinary moments that make up a life.

But somewhere along the way, I seem to have disappeared.

My husband still remembers to ask if the car needs gas or whether I called the plumber. He will mention the grocery list or remind me about a family birthday. But he does not ask how I am doing. He does not notice when I am quiet, when I am hurt or when I have clearly gone out of my way to make an effort. I recently got my hair cut and styled differently, and he said nothing. Last month, I spent an entire weekend repainting our bedroom and changing things around, hoping maybe he would notice and say it looked nice. He walked in, set down his keys and asked what was for dinner.

It is not that I need constant

share a life with you. That is not high maintenance. That is marriage.

Many spouses mistake steady love for finished work. They think because the house is still standing, they no longer have to tend the fire. But even the best marriages can go emotionally stale when one person starts feeling more like staff than a sweetheart.

Tell your husband plainly and calmly that this is not about flowers or fanfare. It is about connection. He may not realize how absent he has become, but now is the time to realize it. A good man can still be a clueless one.

You are not invisible. But it is time to stop fading quietly into the wallpaper and ask him to look up.

"Out of Bounds: Estrangement, Boundaries and the Search for Forgiveness" is out now! Annie Lane's third anthology is for anyone who has lived with anger, estrangement or the deep ache of being wronged -- because forgiveness isn't for them. It's for you. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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praise or some movie version of romance. I am not asking for roses on the doorstep or love poems tucked into my purse. I would just like to feel visible again. I want to feel like more than the person who keeps the house running, manages the calendar, remembers everyone's preferences and quietly fills in all the gaps. I miss being looked at with warmth. I miss being asked questions that are not logistical. I miss feeling like a woman, not just a role.

When I try to talk to him about this, he looks confused and says, "You know I love you." I believe that he does. But love can grow awfully quiet over the years, and sometimes quiet starts to feel an awful lot like absence.

Am I expecting too much after all this time, or is it possible to feel deeply lonely while sitting right beside your spouse every night on the couch? -- Still Here

Dear Still Here: You are not asking for too much. You are asking to be noticed by the person who promised to

## ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Hold on tight. Time is on your side, and consideration of others will help you gain perspective regarding possibilities and your desires. A shift is taking place that requires you to be open-minded and alert. Keep your life simple, and rewards will follow.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Channel your energy into making a difference. Working alone will mitigate interference and give you the time you need to get things done to your specifications.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Communication is your specialty today. It's time to follow your heart and use your connections and skills to reach your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Before volunteering your time, skills or money, do your research. Choosing how you want to contribute to a cause will ensure that your actions have the most impact.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Pay attention to detail to avoid criticism or jeopardizing your reputation. Don't rush when dealing with institutions, government agencies and financial matters that require attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't count on others for the information you require to make a sound decision. When in doubt, go directly to the source and make the necessary alterations personally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Participating in functions that interest you or offer insight into unique ways to use your skills will pay

off. A partnership will change how you invest in your future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Avoid anyone using emotional manipulation. Keep tabs on who does what and how you can shine brightly using your charm and unique skills. Engage in something physical.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Explore the possibilities and consider how you can make the most out of whatever opportunity unfolds. Host an event or start a project that gives you a platform to share your concerns and solutions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- It's what you do today that counts. Making home improvements and developing meaningful relationships will give you plenty to look forward to.

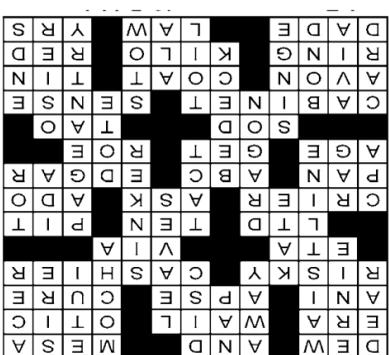
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- A sensible plan will save time and money. Avoid getting involved in high-conflict situations. The idea is to complete your objective. Protect yourself from health or financial risks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Put more thought into what's important to you before going on a spending spree. You'll misinterpret an emotional gesture. Ask questions before you respond to someone.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- A domestic problem will surface if you or someone close to you isn't transparent. Choose straight talk and stifle any festering conflict. Choose peace over chaos.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mountain — soft drink
  - 4 "— how!"
  - 7 Flat-topped hill
  - 11 Time
  - 12 Caterwaul
  - 14 Of the ear
  - 15 Black cuckoo
  - 16 Altar's place
  - 17 Remedy
  - 18 Dangerous
  - 20 Retail worker
  - 22 JFK posting
  - 23 By way of
  - 24 Inc., in England
  - 26 Finger count
  - 27 Stone
  - 30 Town —
  - 32 Invite
  - 33 "Much — About Nothing"
  - 34 Skillet
  - 35 "Grey's Anatomy" airer
  - 37 — Allan Poe
  - 39 Grow old
  - 40 Understand
  - 41 Caviar
  - 42 Turf
  - 43 Chinese "way"
  - 45 President's advisory group
  - 49 Meaning
  - 51 English river
  - 52 Outer garment
  - 54 — Pan Alley
  - 55 Hoop
  - 56 Metric weight
  - 57 Bloodshot
  - 58 Miami — County, Florida
  - 59 Statute
  - 60 Jr. and sr.

### Answer to this puzzle



- DOWN**
- 1 Costly
  - 2 Golfer — Els
  - 3 Concern of dieters
  - 4 Far and —
  - 5 Short sleep
  - 6 Brake part
  - 7 Coffee drink with chocolate
  - 8 Needlecase
  - 9 Beget
  - 10 Maple genus
  - 13 Hits the road
  - 19 Actress — Winslet
  - 21 Deceptive pitch
  - 25 "Puff, the Magic —"
  - 26 Diplomat's forte
  - 27 Spectacle
  - 28 Actress — Lupino
  - 29 Rocky hill
  - 30 Books pro
  - 31 Tattered cloth
  - 36 Adorn
  - 38 Be too fond
  - 42 Burn a little
  - 44 Willow rod
  - 45 Casino item
  - 46 Running shoe brand
  - 47 007
  - 48 Labor
  - 49 Pack
  - 50 Means justifier
  - 53 Carte or mode lead-in

