

Poem brightens bleak holiday for woman mourning her mom

DEAR ABBY: While visiting my aunt over the Thanksgiving holiday, I noticed your booklet, "Keepers," on her coffee table. While thumbing through it, I came across a poem that made me think of my mother, who died in early September. I was missing her terribly at that moment, and the poem lifted my spirits and comforted me. I asked my aunt where she had gotten the booklet, and she told me she had ordered it from you last spring.

Is it still available, and how can I get some of them? I'd love to share that poem and some of the others in your collection with my sisters and brothers.

— ISLAND GIRL FROM OAHU

DEAR ISLAND GIRL: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. I'm sure the holidays this year were especially poignant for you and your siblings, but please know that your mother would not have wanted her death to bring you sadness. She gave you life, and would want you to make the most out of every day that you are given.

Yes, my Keepers booklet is still available. It contains some of the most frequently requested poems and essays that have appeared in this column. To order it, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY: After 26 years of marriage, my parents seem headed for divorce. My father is the one who wants it, and it sent my manic-depressive mother into the hospital with thoughts of suicide.

Now I am in the middle. My mother doesn't want to talk to my father, so the only information he can get is from me. He has mentioned several times the idea of my moving back home and taking care of her. (He is planning to move out in a month.)

Abby, I only recently got out on my own, and I am enjoying my independence. I love my mother and don't want to lose her, but I am resistant to moving back into a house where I have experienced so much pain. Am I being selfish? What should I do?

— FEELING GUILTY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: The person who's being selfish is your father. He's trying to talk you into assuming the responsibility he assumed when he promised to "love, honor and cherish" your mother at the time of their marriage. If your mother were in her right mind, she would not want you to sacrifice your independence. Do not allow your fa-



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

ther to guilt you into moving back. This is his problem. Please do not allow him to make it yours.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 15-year-old son. "Max" has just announced that he has a girlfriend. He talks to her on the phone constantly. I have met her, and she's a very nice girl.

I had the "sex" talk with Max. I explained about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and how some girls who say they're on the pill really aren't, and that the pill does not protect either partner from STDs. I also gave my son condoms (only two) and explained that it was not permission to have sex. However, I'm afraid he might not listen and do it anyway. If that happens, I want my boy to be protected.

I have gotten conflicting opinions from friends about having given Max the condoms.

Do you think I did the right thing?

— DON'T WANNA BE A GRANDMA (YET) IN MANHATTAN BEACH

DEAR DON'T: I absolutely think you did the right thing, also the intelligent and pragmatic thing — and in exactly the right order.

DEAR ABBY: My beloved husband passed away in early October, leaving a hobby cabinet filled with expensive items. It had never been kept locked. The keys were always left hanging in the lock. The day before the visitation at the funeral home, my son quietly locked the cabinet, pocketed the keys and took them with him.

The next day, my husband's brother told me what my son had done and expressed concern about his intentions regarding the contents of the cabinet as well as the expensive hobby items in my husband's workroom.

I was shocked and upset. I felt my son had violated the privacy of my home by locking the cabinet and leaving with the keys. Therefore, I called him and told him I wanted them returned the next day. My son began crying and saying, "Mom, why are you doing this to me?"

I was perplexed then and remain perplexed as to how he thought I was doing anything "to him" inasmuch as it was he who had locked me out of a cabinet in my own home. I felt then, and continue to feel, that I had every right to tell him I wanted the keys back.

A few days later, my son told me he was "crushed, CRUSHED!" by

my request.

My son's wife is an attorney. She sees nothing wrong with what my son did, and in fact, has criticized me for my remarks about his "secreting the keys from my home."

Please tell me, was I wrong in wanting the keys returned, and was my son wrong in what he did? Also, what do you think of my daughter-in-law's position? This man is my only child, and he is no longer speaking to me!

— DISTRESSED MOM, ORMOND BEACH, FLA.

DEAR DISTRESSED: You were certainly within your rights to ask for the keys to be returned immediately.

That your son would take it upon himself to lock a cabinet in your home and take the keys without first checking to see if it was all right with you, was extremely presumptuous.

My reaction to his reaction when you pointed that out to him is, "The best defense is a good offense." In other words, he was attempting to make you feel guilty for calling him on what he had done. As to his wife's position — there's a country-and-western song title that describes it perfectly: "Stand by Your Man."

You have my sympathy — first for the loss of your husband, and second for the loss of your illusions about your child. Please, I urge you, do not allow him to emotionally blackmail you. He owes you an apology.

DEAR ABBY: One of my husband's friends gave me a "white elephant" gift this week. To be specific, it was more like a pink pig gift. That's right — I got a fuzzy pink pig that snores and says something about eating slop. My husband was given a beautiful leather wallet!

He says I'm being paranoid to think his friend gave me the pig to make fun of me.

He says his friend is a prankster, not a critic. I say, how would he like it if we gave his girlfriend a stuffed pig? What do you think about this, Abby?

— FRAN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR FRAN: I think that if ever a gift begged to be re-gifted, it's your fuzzy pink pig. Next Christmas, wrap it beautifully and return it to the prankster. Be sure to include a small container of Pepto-Bismol. It's the pink, so it will coordinate nicely. Perhaps it will neutralize some of the acid in the man's sense of humor.

copy of the slain women's driver's license and photos of her body.

Rader had long been active at Christ Lutheran Church, serving on its council and becoming president of its board not long before his arrest.

A floppy disk sent to a Wichita television station by the BTK killer was traced to the church through an electronic imprint, and detectives went there with a search warrant, trying to find out who had access to the church computer.

'Demonic force' at work, pastor says

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — The pastor of the Wichita church where Dennis Rader was a longtime leader believes a "demonic force" drove Rader to become a serial killer.

The Rev. Michael Clark, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Wichita, talked about his experiences with Rader during an appearance Sunday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park.

Rader, who lived in the Wichita suburb of Park City, pleaded guilty in June to killing 10 people between 1974 and 1991.

He was sentenced in August to 10 consecutive life prison terms.

The killer who terrorized the Wichita area for years became known as BTK, a nickname he gave himself in letters to police and the media. The initials stood for "Bind, Torture, Kill."

After long silence, the communications resumed in March 2004, when a letter to *The Wichita Eagle* gave details of a 1986 death not previously linked to the serial killer. Included with the letter was a pho-

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WEEKDAYS JANUARY 17 - JANUARY 23

	6 AM		6:30		7 AM		7:30		8 AM		8:30		9 AM		9:30		10 AM		10:30		11 AM		11:30			
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	Good Morning Kansas				Good Morning America								Martha				The View				Millionaire		News			
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News Cont'd				Today												Live With Regis and Kelly				Paid Program		Paid Program			
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News Cont'd				News				The Early Show				The 700 Club				The Price Is Right				The Young and the Restless					
K15CG (2)	BBC World		Body Electric		Caillou		Mister Rogers		Beren. Bears		Cliff Pup		Big Big World		Dragon Tales		Sesame Street				Teletubbies		Barney-Friends			
ESPN (28)	SportsCenter				SportsCenter				SportsCenter		Varied		SportsCenter				SportsCenter				NFL Live		Varied			
USA (37)	Walker, Texas Ranger				JAG				The District				Nash Bridges				Nash Bridges				Coach		Coach			
TBS (38)	Saved by Bell		Saved by Bell		Saved by Bell		Saved by Bell		Dawson's Creek				Movie								Becker		Becker			
WGN (39)	Changing		Believer Voice		Happy Days		Happy Days		Hillbilities		Hillbilities		Rockford Files				Matlock		Magnum, P.I.							
TNT (40)	Angel				Charmed				Charmed				ER				ER				Judging Amy					
DSC (42)	Paid Program		Paid Program		Paid Program		Paid Program		American Chopper				American Chopper				Varied Programs									
A&E (47)	Pride and Prejudice				Varied Programs												City Confidential				American Justice					
HIST (48)	Varied Programs																									
NICK (55)	Oddparents		Oddparents		SpongeBob		SpongeBob		Dora the Explorer		Go Diego		Blue's Clues		Backyardigans		Dora the Explorer		LazyTown		Max & Ruby		Dora the Explorer			
DISN (56)	Breakfast Bear				Higglytown		Einsteins		JoJo's Circus		Doodlebops		Charlie & Lola		The Wiggles		Koala Brothers		Rolie Polie		Doodlebops		Charlie & Lola		Einsteins	
FAM (58)	Kong-Series		Spider-Man		Power Rangers		Power Rangers		700 Club Special Programming								Gilmore Girls				Full House		Full House			
HALL (60)	New Morning				The Waltons				The Waltons				Little House on the Prairie				Little House on the Prairie				Diagnosis Murder					

WEEKDAYS JANUARY 17 - JANUARY 23

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC 4 6	All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital		Judge-Brown	Judge-Brown	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC W News
KSNK/NBC 8 8	News	Inside Edition	Days of our Lives		Passions		The Insider	Jeopardy!	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS 12 11	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light		Dr. Phil		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News
K15CG 2 2	Reading Rainbow	Lions	Varied Programs			Clifford-Red	Cyber-chase	Arthur	Maya & Miguel	Post-cards	Zoom	Business
ESPN 28 28	Varied Programs					1st and 10	NFL Live	Rome-Burning	Around the Horn	Interruption	SportsCenter	
USA 37 37	JAG		Movie		Varied Programs		PGA Golf		Varied Programs		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
TBS 38 38	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
WGN 39 39	News		Magnum, P.I.		Da Vinci's Inquest		Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Moesha	Moesha	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
TNT 40 40	Judging Amy		Law & Order		Law & Order		Alias		Charmed		Charmed	
DSC 42 42	Varied Programs		The New Detectives		The FBI Files		The FBI Files		It Takes a Thief		Cash Cab	Cash Cab
A&E 47 47	Cold Case Files		Varied Programs						City Confidential		American Justice	
HIST 48 48	Modern Marvels		Varied Programs									
NICK 55 55	Go Diego	Lazy-Town	Rugrats	Teenage Robot	Varied Programs			6teen	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Grown Up	Danny Phanto
DISN 56 56	Higglytown	JoJo's Circus	House of Mouse	Lilo & Stitch	Varied Programs				Kim Possible	That's-Raven	Varied	Zack & Cody
FAM 58 58	Family Matters	Family Matters	Boy Mts. World	Boy Mts. World	Full House	Full House	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Gilmore Girls		7th Heaven	
HALL 60 60	Matlock		Matlock		Little House on the Prairie		Little House		Varied	M*A*S'H	M*A*S'H	M*A*S'H M*A*S'

THURSDAY JANUARY 19

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	News (CC)	Ent. Tonight	Dancing With the Stars (Live) (CC)			Crumbs (N) (CC)	Primetime (CC)		News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News	Wheel of Fortune	Will & Grace	Four Kings	Name Is Earl	The Office	ER Canon City (CC)		News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Night	Late Night
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	CSI: NY On the Job (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (N)		Without a Trace Patient X (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman	Late Late	Late Late
K15CG (2)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		College Track Get In, Stay In		The This Old House Hour (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)		BBC World	Keeping Up	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	
ESPN (28)	College Basketball: Virginia. (Live) (CC)		North Carolina at		College Basketball: (Live) (CC)		Cincinnati at Xavier.		SportsCenter (Live)		NFL Live (N) (CC)	Game- night
USA (37)	Law & Order: SVU		Movie: The Fast and the Furious ★★½ (2001, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. (CC)				Movie: 2 Fast 2 Furious ★★ (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. (CC)				Movie: The Fast and the Furious	
TBS (38)	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Friends (CC)		Friends (CC)		Movie: You've Got Mail ★★½ (1998, Comedy) Two bitter business rivals conduct an online love affair. (CC)				Movie: The Brothers ★★ (2001) Morris Chestnut. (CC)	
WGN (39)	Home Videos	Movie: Jaws 2 ★★½ (1978)	Tourist town and police chief dread huge white shark at beach. Roy Scheider. (CC)				WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	
TNT (40)	Law & Order Survivor (CC) (DVS)		NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at New York Knicks. Madison Square Garden. (Live) (CC)				NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Sacramento Kings. ARCO Arena. (Live) (CC)					
DSC (42)	Lethal Swarms: Killer Bees (CC)		Killer Squid (CC)		Killer Jellyfish		Killer Ants (CC)		Lethal Swarms: Killer Bees (CC)		Killer Squid (CC)	
A&E (47)	Death Detectives: L.A. Coroner		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		Dallas SWAT (N) (CC)		Crossing Jordan Second Chances		The First 48 (CC)	
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels Battle Gear (CC)		The Presidents 1849-1865 (CC)		The Presidents 1865-1885 (CC)		Declassified Tiananmen Square		Modern Marvels Torture Devices		The Presidents 1849-1865 (CC)	
NICK (55)	Oddpar- ents	Jimmy Neutron	Spon- geBob	Romeo! (CC)	Full House	Fresh Prince	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
DISN (56)	That's- Raven	That's- Raven	Movie: The Cheetah Girls ★★ (2003, Comedy-Drama) Raven. (CC)				Buzz- Maggie	Sister, Sister	That's- Raven	That's- Raven	Phil of Future	Kim Possib
FAM (58)	Smallville Exodus (Part 2 of 2) (CC)		Movie: Grease 2 ★★ (1982, Musical Comedy) Maxwell Caulfield. (CC)				Whose Line?		Whose Line?		The 700 Club (CC)	Home Videos
HALL (60)	JAG Heart of Darkness		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Movie: Recipe for Murder (2001, Mystery) Gary Basaraba, Larissa Laskin. (CC)				M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H Lil (CC)

FRIDAY JANUARY 20

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
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