

College freshman concerned something wrong with love life

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a 19-year-old guy trying to find my way in life, mostly in my first year of college and trying to get my love life straightened out. Right now it's nowhere, but it's still so confusing that it's seriously beginning to make me think that maybe there's something wrong with me.



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

I'm talking about a powerful sexual attraction that happens mostly in my dreams. Last night, I dreamed that I was having this hot fling with my best friend's mother, an older lady. I only met her once, don't know her and don't want to, but why was so she sexy?

It's crazy. What if this weird kind of attraction to someone I don't even know happened in real life? Am I going to marry someone like that?

— C.E.

Dear C.E.: Stop worrying. You're not crazy and not as unusual as you think. Most of us have been conditioned long, long ago to the kind of person we're going to find ourselves drawn to or powerfully attracted to later in life. Often this is called love at first sight. We may even get a preview of this in our dreams.

This doesn't mean you're going to fall madly in love with a person who's old enough to be your mother or your grandmother, but chances are your subconscious mind is telling you there was something about your friend's mother — perhaps her voice, her laugh or a perfume she was wearing — that reminded you of someone you liked and trusted in your childhood, maybe a favorite teacher, a baby sitter or someone who made an imprint.

This woman you'll meet someday will probably be similar to you in many ways — your temperament, your appearance and your interests. You'll know when it happens.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I are both going through a stressful time because we only recently learned that our 12-year-old son had been sexually molested. Apparently, this happened many months ago in the shower room at this school and he never told us; however, he made such a fuss about returning to that school the following semester, but we never found out why.

Since we were moving to a dif-

ferent community, we forgot about it until now, when we were listening to the news during dinner hour and news about sexual abuse of boys came up.

Our boy started to cry and ran from the room. Then he started talking. What should we do now, and why didn't he tell us before?

— T.B.

Dear T.B.: You should notify authorities at his former school, but also your son truly needs to talk with a therapist who's competent and trained to handle these particular problems. If he gets the help he needs, the psychological damage to him will be less severe and will reduce much of the anger, guilt and self-doubt that he may now feel.

The fact that he failed to tell you immediately isn't because he doesn't trust you.

Boys have a much harder time talking about being a victim of sexual abuse than do girls, partly because they blame themselves for not being physically able to stop the perpetrator, which they see as a sign of weakness. Many pedophiles who commit this kind of crime frighten their victims by threatening to hurt members of their family or the boys themselves if they reveal what happened.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a 15-year-old girl, and my father, whom I love most of the time, recently married a woman who's a hypochondriac. I guess he didn't know this before, but he told me about it last week. I'd never heard the word before. All I knew was that all males, including my older brother, think she's drop-dead beautiful.

To me, she's just an irritating complainer who's self-centered and always seems to have something wrong with her. What is all this?

— E.E.

Dear E.E.: Right now, it sounds as if your life isn't easy, and for that I'm sorry, but there are ways to make it easier. It's difficult for stepchildren like yourself to ad-

just to a new parent, but it's almost equally difficult for the step-parent, often because he or she senses the children's resentment. Knowing that your stepmom, too, probably is having a difficult time might help you to try a bit harder to make both your lives easier.

I understand that living with a hypochondriac makes your task harder still, but if you're aware of some of the common reasons behind this disease, it might give you insight about how to cope with her complaints and her illness.

Trying to convince a person who suffers from this that there's really nothing wrong with her, that it's all in her head, only makes matters worse.

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Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today's Sudoku puzzle is at the bottom of this page.

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

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