

Right decision by woman not liked by family



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: From the time that my father left — I was 8 — until I was thrown out of the house at 16, my mother was seriously emotionally abusive and neglectful. She frequently called me filthy names, made bizarre accusations that had no basis in truth, told me I was a "mistake," threatened me, publicly humiliated and belittled me.

I am now in my mid-20s and have

had no contact with my mother for three years. My older brother is in denial about the abuse and insists that I forgive her and rebuild our relationship. He claims that she's sorry and she misses me.

I recently traveled back to my hometown and visited my mother. She treated me as though I were a stranger. Afterward, I felt that I could move on, knowing I had done the

right thing in deciding to cut her out of my life. Now the rest of the family has turned their backs on me. I would like to maintain a personal relationship with them, but they think I'm a bad person for no longer having a relationship with my mother. Do you have any advice? — LEFT IN THE COLD IN DULUTH

DEAR LEFT IN THE COLD: Only this: If the price of having a relationship with your family is tolerating their emotional blackmail and more abuse from your mother, the price is too high.

DEAR ABBY: Not long ago, we moved into a beautiful new housing development. Neighbors on the street behind us keep their puppy penned up

outside day and night in all kinds of weather. Occasionally we see one of their neighbors walk the dog, but other than that, it seems the dog's existence is limited to a cement pad covered in you-know-what.

We would rather not call the homeowners' association or the Humane Society, as these neighbors seem like decent people. However, it is upsetting our small children, as well as my husband and me, to hear the poor animal cry. We can't imagine spending the next 10 years like this. What do you recommend we do? — CANINE LOVERS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CANINE LOVERS: Although you would rather not, for the

puppy's sake, pick up the phone and contact the homeowners' association and the Humane Society. You'll be doing the neglected creature — and yourselves — a favor. The owners of that poor animal have no idea how to properly care for a dog. The Humane Society will instruct them on the proper care of their furry family member.

DEAR ABBY: My 2-year-old is in a private home day care. Occasionally he makes a mess on the carpet or breaks a toy. When it happens, the day-care provider is quick to point out the price of the cleaning or replacement, and I usually offer her \$20 in compensation. However, she expects me to pay at least half for my child's

accidents.

Since this is a private home, is it appropriate to assume I'll pay for these incidents on top of the weekly fee? — IN NEED OF DAY-CARE ETIQUETTE

DEAR IN NEED: The fees you pay the day-care provider should cover the cost of the toys — they are a part of her cost of doing business. It is interesting that your day-care provider has her charges playing on her carpets, and not in an area that is easier to keep clean and sanitized. Is this person a licensed and insured day-care provider? If she is not, it's time to give some serious consideration to what might happen if your child were injured on her property. Readers, what do you think of this?

SATURDAY EVENING		E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone										DEC. 25, 2004	
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30		
36	53	A&E	*** "Scent of a Woman" (1992, Drama) Al Pacino, Chris O'Donnell. Premiere. A blind man introduces a student to life's pleasures.					Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti	*** "Scent of a Woman" (1992)			
4	6	ABC	*** "The Sound of Music" (1965, Musical) Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer. An Austrian widower with seven children.					City Slickers	Amazing Animal Videos "Holiday Special"	Planet's Funniest Animals			
26	48	ANPL	Amazing Animal Videos "Holiday Special"					Planet's Funniest Animals	Planet's Funniest Animals				
63	54	BRAVO	*** "The Birdcage" (1996, Comedy) Robin Williams. A son's engagement throws a kink into a gay couple's life.					*** "The Birdcage" (1996, Comedy) Robin Williams. A son's engagement throws a kink into a gay couple's life.					
7	11	CBS	*** "My Dog Skip" (2000, Drama) Frankie Muniz, Diane Lane.					48 Hours Mystery	News	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	
24	50	DISC	American Chopper					American Chopper "Police Bike 1"	American Chopper "Police Bike 2"	American Chopper "David Mann Bike 1"			
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible	The Proud Family	Braceface	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	*** "The Ultimate Christmas Present" (2000, Comedy) Halle Berry.				
49	81	EITV	True H'wood	Richie H'wood Story	Saturday Night Live	Heir	Heir	Howard S.	Howard S.				
22	56	ESPN	SportsCenter	NFL Football Denver Broncos at Tennessee Titans. (Live)				SportsCenter	(Live)	SportsCenter			
54	57	ESPN2	Strongest	Junior Hockey: World Champ. - Russia vs. U.S.				World's Strongest Man	Fastbreak	NFL			
32	46	FAM	"The Christmas List" (1997) Mimi Rogers.					*** "Scrooged" (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.	3rd Rock	3rd Rock			
59	-	FIT TV	Fitness	Extreme Survival "Cold"				Extreme Survival "Cold"	Fitness	Extreme Survival "Cold"			
35	31	FMC	"Far From Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog"					*** "Miracle on 34th Street" (1994)		(:01) "Doctor Dolittle"			
53	68	FOOD	Snacks Unwrapped	Desserts Unwrapped				Food Icons Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Top 5 (N)	Snacks Unwrapped		
13	7	FOX	Cops	Cops	Funniest Holiday Moments			She Spies "The Martini Shot"	Mad TV Holiday-themed sketches	LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat		
40	38	FX	"Jingle All the Way"					*** "Dr. Dolittle" (1998, Comedy) Eddie Murphy.	*** "Dr. Dolittle 2" (2001) Eddie Murphy.				
30	55	FXSP	Beyond the Glory	Beyond the Glory	Beyond the Glory			Beyond the Glory	Rocky Mt.	Sports List			
5	14	HBO	(5:30) "Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead"					(:15) *** "The In-Laws" (2003, Comedy) Michael Douglas, Albert Brooks.	*** "Welcome to Mooseport" (2004, Comedy) Gene Hackman. Premiere.				
62	67	HGTV	Mission Decorating	Designer Designers	Design Design	Smart	Home	Mission Decorating	A History of God				
58	52	HIST	A History of God Exploring the age-old quest for meaning in existence.					Biblical Disasters Whether biblical accounts of disasters are fact or fiction.					
25	35	IND	*** "Home Alone" (1990) Macaulay Culkin. A boy defends his home against inept burglars.					*** "Saving Silverman" (2001, Comedy) Jason Biggs, Steve Zahn. Premiere.					
18	63	LIFE	"Mistaken Identity"					*** "Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story"					
23	77	MTV	Date Mom	Real World-Rules	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge	Challenge			
3	9	NBC	Broncos Pregame	NFL Football Denver Broncos at Tennessee Titans. From the Coliseum in Nashville, Tenn. (Live)				News	News	Saturday Night Live	Kate Winslet; Eminem.		
8	8	NBC	*** "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946, Fantasy) James Stewart, Donna Reed. An angel saves a distraught businessman from suicide.					News	Saturday Night Live	Kate Winslet; Eminem.			
34	43	NICK	Grown Up	Romeo!	All That	Amanda	Full House	Full House	Full House	Cosby	Roseanne	Roseanne	
2	2	PBS	Keeping Up Appearances	The Lawrence Welk Show "Christmas Show"	A Merry Red Green Christmas			Austin City Limits "An Evening With Vince Gill"		Soundstage			
38	83	SCIFI	"Flinstones-Rck"					*** "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" (2001)					
61	41	SPK	*** "Licence to Kill" (1989) Timothy Dalton, Carey Lowell.					*** "The World Is Not Enough" (1999)					
39	51	TLC	Trading Spaces: Inside Out	Behind the scenes of the show.				The Best of Trading Spaces Highlights.	Trading Spaces	Trading Spaces	"Little Rock: Greenbar Way"		
28	37	TNT	*** "Ever After" (1998) Drew Barrymore.					*** "First Knight" (1995) Sean Connery, Richard Gere.			3 Muskets		
51	86	TRAV	Kings of the Road	Weird Travels	Ends of the Earth			Kings of the Road	Weird Travels				
21	82	TVLND	Brady	GreenAcre	Griffith	3's Co.	Sanford	All-Family	All-Family	Wings	Bewitched		
60	89	UNIV	Sábado Gigante	Dinorah y la Juventud; Gerardo; David Bisbal.	Impacto	Noticiero	Otro Rollo						
20	34	USA	(5:00) "Big Daddy"					*** "All About the Benjamins" (2002) Ice Cube.					
12	3	WB	Friends	Everybody-Raymond	*** "Major League" (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen.			News	(:45) Sports Replay	*** "Infinity" (1996) Matthew Broderick.			
99	36	WGN	*** "Home Alone" (1990) Macaulay Culkin.					WGN News Alaska	Becker	"Christmas Lilies of the Field"			

SUNDAY EVENING		E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone										DEC. 26, 2004	
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30		
36	53	A&E	*** "Monster's Ball" (2001) Billy Bob Thornton. Premiere. A prison guard strikes up a romance with an inmate's widow.					Bounty Hunter	CSI: Miami "Entrance Wounds"	*** "Monster's Ball" (2001, Drama)			
4	6	ABC	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Transforming a house for a widower and his eight children.					Desperate Housewives "Pilot"	News	(:35) Seinfeld	(:05) Paid Program	Diamond Adventures	
26	48	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter Diaries Robert is born.					Venom ER A rattlesnake bites a man on the leg.	The Crocodile Hunter Diaries Robert is born.				
63	54	BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio "Barbra Streisand"					Barbra Streisand "Barbra Streisand"	Cirque du Soleil: Varekai A tribute to the spirit of the nomadic soul.				
7	11	CBS	Cold Case "The Lost Soul of Herman Lester"					*** "Ocean's Eleven" (2001) George Clooney. Premiere. A team to rob a casino vault.	News		(:05) News	The Twilight Zone	
24	50	DISC	Afghan Beauty School (N)					American Chopper "Christmas Sleigh"	World Biker Build-Off "The Builds Begin"	MythBusters "Myths Revisited"	MythBusters "Exploding House"		
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible	The Proud Family	Braceface	Lizzie McGuire	Phil of the Future	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	*** "Mary Poppins" (1964, Fantasy) Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke.			
49	81	EITV	Billionaire Brotherhood	Jackie Collins Presents	Heir	Life Great			Saturday Night Live		Jackie Collins Presents		
22	56	ESPN	NFL	NFL Football Cleveland Browns at Miami Dolphins. (Live)					SportsCenter	(Live)			
54	57	ESPN2	World-Poker	World-Poker	World-Poker				World-Poker	Fastbreak	Streetball		
32	46	FAM	*** "Hook" (1991, Fantasy) Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman.					Who? Who? Who? "Who's the Boss?"	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	J. Osteen	Feed	
59	-	FIT TV	FitTV's Housecalls (N)	Peak Performance (N)	Peak Performance (N)			FitTV's Housecalls (N)	Peak Performance (N)				
35	31	FMC	(:01) *** "The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing"					(:01) *** "Miller's Crossing" (1990, Drama)			"Destination: Gobi!"		
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live New Year's Eve party. (N)					After Midnight: Las Vegas Culinary tour.	After Midnight: New Orleans Culinary tour.	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Emeril Live New Year's Eve party.	
13	7	FOX	The Simpsons	Arrested Dev.	Malcolm in the Middle	Malcolm in the Middle		Stargate SG-1 "Revisions"	The Outer Limits "The Sentence"			*** "Real Men" (1987) James Belushi.	
40	38	FX	*** "The Royal Tenenbaums" (2001) Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston.					*** "Dude, Where's My Car?" (2000, Comedy)					
30	55	FXSP	Championship Poker	Championship Poker	Championship Poker			Beyond the Glory (N)	Rocky Mt.	FSN Amer			
5	14	HBO	(5:30) *** "The Medalion" (2003) Ben Affleck. A blind man is a lawyer by day and a superhero by night.					(:15) *** "Daredevil" (2003) Ben Affleck. A blind man is a lawyer by day and a superhero by night.	The Sopranos "Two Tonz"	The Sopranos "Rat Pack"			
62	67	HGTV	Designed Curb	Games-Grew	If Walls Building	House	Gardens	Designed Curb					
58	52	HIST	Countdown to Armageddon Some people believe that the end of the world is near. (N)					Nostradamus: 500 Years Later Ten of the seer's most famous prophecies.					
25	35	IND	*** "Miss Congeniality" (2000, Comedy) (PA) Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine.					*** "Miss Congeniality" (2000, Comedy) (PA) Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine.					
18	63	LIFE	*** "Gracie's Choice"					"Plain Truth" (2004) Mariska Hargitay.	Providence "The Eleventh Hour"				
23	77	MTV	Pimp Ride	Pimp Ride	Bam	Viva Bam	Bam	Bam	Bam	Bam	Punk'd	Punk'd	
3	9	NBC	Dateline NBC					Law & Order: Criminal Intent "D.A.W."	Crossing Jordan "Revealed"			News	Broncos Huddle
8	8	NBC	(5:00) Dateline NBC					Law & Order: Criminal Intent "D.A.W."	Crossing Jordan "Revealed"			(:35) The West Wing	(:35) Inside Edition (N)
34	43	NICK	Unfabulous	Rugrats	Full House	Full House	Family Faceoff	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.		
2	2	PBS	Nature "Diamonds"					Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices	Masterpiece Theatre "Doctor Zhivago"	The tragic Russian love story. (Part 2 of 2) (DVS)	*** "The Great White Hope" (1970)		
38	83	SCIFI	"Epoch: Evolution"					"Fire: Nature Unleashed" (2004) Premiere.	Scare	Tripping	The Outer Limits		
61	41	SPK	(5:30) *** "Goldfinger" (1964)					WWE Heat	*** "Thunderball" (1965) Sean Connery.				
39	51	TLC	The Mummy Detective "The Three Kings"					The Mummy Detective "The Three Kings"	A Haunting in Connecticut Experts attempt to rid a family's home of supernatural entities.			A Haunting in Georgia	
28	37	TNT	*** "A Knight's Tale" (2001) Heath Ledger. Premiere.					*** "A Knight's Tale" (2001) Heath Ledger.					
51	86	TRAV	Find Cash Treasures	Find Cash & Treasures	Find Cash & Treasures			Find Cash Treasures	Find Cash Treasures	Find Cash & Treasures			
21	82	TVLND	Munsters	GreenAcre	Griffith	Leave	Sanford	All-Family	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cheers	Cheers	
60	89	UNIV	(5:00) La Parodia	Hora Pico	La Jaula	Ver Para Creer	Impacto	Noticiero	Tras la Verdad				
20	34	USA	(5:00) "She's All That"					*** "The First Wives Club" (1996) Premiere.	Law & Order: SVU	The Dead Zone			
12	3	WB	Friends	Everybody-Raymond	*** "Someone to Watch Over Me" (N)			*** "Someone to Watch Over Me" (N)	The Mountain "Blood Money" (N)	News	News	Everybody-Raymond	Will & Grace
99	36	WGN	*** "Rocky II" (1979) Sylvester Stallone.					WGN News [Replay]	Maximum Exposure			The Twilight Zone	

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MONDAY EVENING		E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone										DEC. 27, 2004	
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30		
36	53	A&E	Airline	Airline	Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti	Cold Case Files "Blood Money; Precious Doe"	Crossing Jordan "Fire and Ice"		Airline	Airline		
4	6	ABC	ESPN's Blunderful World of Sports					NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams. From the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. (Live)		News	(:35) Nightline		
26	48	ANPL	Pet Star Talented pig; artistic penguin. (N)					Amazing Animal Videos Deer and bird rescues.		Amazing Animal Videos Deer and bird rescues.			
63	54	BRAVO	The West Wing					The West Wing "Isaac and Ishmael"	The West Wing "College Kids"	*** "Short Cuts" (1993) Andie MacDowell.			
7	11</												