



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

Ask Deanna! is a column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a situation where I must choose between my childhood friend of many years and my new boyfriend of two years. He wants to marry me but always argues with my friend who feels he's not good enough for me. She's caught him cheating and a few other things but we're working it out. I want both of them in my life and don't know what to do.

Gwen
Dallas, TX

Dear Gwen:

It's clear as mud right you're walking into a problem with this man if he's cheating. Don't ignore the warning signs or the insight of your friend. Be wise and observe a little longer to see if it's worth risking your friendship over a relationship that may break your heart. Cheating is the ultimate form of disrespect and you should have kicked him to the curb.

Dear Deanna!

I'm dating two women at the same time. Neither woman has all the qualities I seek individually but they become the complete woman I need when combined. I'm tired of lying and running between the two but scared to lose either of them. What do I do because it's causing me to become very stressed?

Marvin
Omaha, NE

Dear Marvin:

You're only half a man because that's what you're giving to each of these women. Grow up and evaluate your standards and then determine the standards you want reflected in a woman. Be honest with these women who may dump you because of poor morals and values. If so, you deserve it because you made these two beds and may not get to sleep in either one again.

Dear Deanna!

I've been trying to achieve a certain goal for a very long time. I pray long and hard but nothing happens. I have faith, I stay focused and I visualize what I want. I'm at the point of giving up but I keep hoping that God is going to give me what I want, sooner or later. What else should I do to make things happen?

Sherry Carter
Augusta, GA

Dear Sherry:

People expect things to drop from the sky but that's not how it happens. God blessed you with the wisdom, dream and creativity but you must do your part. Get on your feet and use the healthy body and mind you have to work hard, put in the labor and elbow grease to bring your dream to life. Your effort coupled with faith and positive thinking is a guaranteed formula for success.

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'Honeymooners' short on nostalgia

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Anyone expecting this adaptation to measure up to the classic television series might want to consider passing on this unrecognizable overhaul designed with a fresh, young audience in mind. For long gone are any of the elements which made the first so memorable: the poignant thread of social realism running through the core of the story, the witty repartee among the characters, and the intangible of chemistry which rendered the program timeless.

To refresh memories, while informing those too young to remember, "The Honeymooners" debuted on TV in 1950 as a sketch on the "Cavalcade of Stars" before being expanded five years later into the 30-minute sitcom which enjoyed a 39-episode run over the course of just one season. Performed live, and without the benefit of rehearsals or retakes, this salt-of-the-earth saga starred Jackie Gleason as Ralph Cramden, a short-tempered dreamer who forever tests the patience of his equally-shrill spouse, Alice (Audrey Meadows).

Her plight was to endure the domestic drudgery of life in a tiny, drab apartment building while waiting for one of her luckless hubby's harebrained get-rich-quick schemes to pay off. Art Carney and Joyce Randolph co-starred as cockeyed optimists Ed and Trixie Norton, the quarreling couple's relatively blissful best friends and neighbors.

The 2005 edition of "The Honeymooners," directed by John Schultz ("Like Mike"), does bear a superficial resemblance to the original, though the principal cast is now all-Black, featuring Cedric the Entertainer as bus driver Ralph, Mike Epps as sewer worker Ed, and Gabrielle Union and Regina Hall as Alice and Trixie, respectively. The four still reside in a broken-down, Brooklyn walk-up where the husbands are constantly cooking up cockamamie ways to make a quick buck, much to their level-headed wives' chagrin.

Visually, the picture fails to convey much of an authentic feel of New York City, except in a couple of early scenes: one, when we find Ralph's bus careening down Broadway, and another, where he's wooing Alice below the Brooklyn Bridge with a full moon hanging over the Manhattan skyline. Otherwise, the locales seem



Cedric "The Entertainer," left, and Mike Epps add an urban twist to a comedic classic.

oddly antiseptic, as if they might be Hollywood sets, despite the presence of tear-away, tenement fire escapes and screeching elevated trains.

Practical Alice and Trixie, who both toil by day at a diner, have their heart set on buying a fixer-upper duplex provided they can raise the down payment before a dastardly real estate developer (Eric Stoltz) dupes the elderly owner into selling it to him. By contrast, we witness

Ralph and Ed fritter away their free time and meager savings, and in very short order, on such ill-advised investments as the Y2K Survival Kit, the Pet Cactus, the velour fanny pack, break dancing, metal detectors, mislabeled Mets merchandise, a Kangol umbrella cap, a Pullman railroad car, a paper delivery route, and lottery tickets. Worse, they occasionally cross moral and legal lines, like pretending to be blind beggars, and when

they collect funds for a bogus charity.

However, there's no time to explore ethical concerns here, as none of the above antics is developed any deeper than is necessary to trigger a quick laugh. The only such subplot with any traction involves an abandoned dog found in a dumpster. The guys decide to enter the greyhound in a \$20,000 stakes race. This signals the distracting entry of John Leguizamo (See *Honeymooners*, Pg. 9)

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