



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I'm at the point of forcing my husband to choose between his mother and me. My husband is a momma's boy and he runs for her beck and call. I think she does a lot of this on purpose to show me that she has more power. I can't take it after her last trick. She called my husband while we were in the bed to come and close her garage door. She knew we were in the bed and this is the last straw for me. Am I wrong?

Leah
Atlanta, GA

Dear Leah:

You got punked. Your mother-in-law flipped the script and hid her flaws until after the wedding. Then again, you were so blindly in love with her son that you looked past her and thought you would win with a wedding ring. Obviously, your husband doesn't see a problem if he hasn't stepped in. Provide examples to help your husband see your point of view without being offensive. Most importantly, stay on her good side and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a single parent divorcee. I met a military man online and in the past 6 months, he's been talking about marriage. He's given me an engagement ring and we talk about family, credit and everything else. We love each other and I want to marry this man, but my two previous marriages failed due to finances and adultery. I'm scared and don't want to have another failed marriage. He keeps telling me he's a keeper. Is this fate?

S.A.
Dumfries, VA

Dear S.A.:

Your marriage is already doomed if you go into it with a mindset of divorce and failure. The best investment you can make right now is intense marriage counseling. Be sure you're not on the rebound or marrying for the wrong reasons. If you want to know about fate, invite God into your relationship with this man and see how things turn out. As for the Online Cassanova, be sure he's the same on his feet as he is in cyberspace.

Dear Deanna!

An ex-boyfriend has resurfaced after 3 years and is out of a job and doing bad. Towards the end of our relationship, I was down on my luck, drinking and living with a friend. He was using me for sex, and not supporting me. I've gotten myself together. I've told him I've changed. After a dinner and some time with my family, he thinks he's back in and wants a commitment. I can't be with this needy man. Am I being cruel for not helping him or should I wait and let destiny come around?

Anonymous
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Anonymous:

It takes one time for a dog to bite in order to realize that it hurts. You came through the fire and now you're standing strong, tall and blessed. The pendulum of karma swings back and your ex-boyfriend is receiving exactly what he put out there. Do yourself a favor and support him from a distance with encouraging words and helpful references. Anything else will set you up for a fall and put you in the middle of his pity party.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, 264 S. La Cienega, Suite 1283, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com

Pryor remembered as pioneer

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Richard Pryor got a send-off fit for a king of comedy.

Anecdotes, tributes and tears flowed Saturday in Los Angeles as family and friends gathered for a private funeral service memorializing the iconic — and iconoclastic — funnyman, who died a week earlier of a heart attack at age 65.

Diana Ross, George Lopez, Pauly Shore and Mike Epps were among those lining the pews at the Church of the Hills at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The service included a video montage of Pryor's film and stage performances, a rendition of "Amazing Grace" that included vocals by Ross, who starred with Pryor in

"The Wiz" and "Lady Sings the Blues," and shared memories among attendees. "It was a very intimate, very small, and we all just got together and kissed him away," Mo'Nique told reporters afterward. "See you later, Richard, see you when we get there... But don't call me no time soon, uh-uh."

Added Epps: "It was sad but joyous. It was the way I think Richard would have loved it to be. He would have loved to have seen the laughter and the pain also."

Considered one of the greatest, most influential comics of all time, Pryor showcased his skills in a trio of award-winning concert films — "Richard Pryor Live in Concert" (1979), "Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip" (1982) and "Richard Pryor Here and Now" (1983) — and starred in more

than 30 films, including "Silver Streak," "Uptown Saturday Night," "Stir Crazy" and the autobiographical comedy-drama "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling."

Pryor battled drug addiction throughout his life, and was nearly killed in a freebasing incident that he later described as a suicide attempt. But his biggest health challenge was multiple sclerosis, which essentially sidelined his career in 1991, after tag-teaming with frequent partner Gene Wilder in "Another You," and left him confined to a wheelchair.

Although he rarely appeared in public in his later years, Pryor did turn out to receive the inaugural Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in 1998, and was featured in the 2004 Comedy

Central special "I Ain't Dead Yet, M*therf@ck%r!," where he was lauded by the likes of Dave Chappelle, Margaret Cho, Jamie Foxx, Whoopi Goldberg, Steve Harvey, Chris Rock, Denis Leary and Robin Williams.

On Saturday, Lopez told reporters that Pryor "meant everything to me. He was the one person who filled my house with his voice and made me not feel lonely, and made me feel my life could be worth something and that my pain could be currency for laughs," Lopez said.

Though no official announcement has been made, sources say a public memorial service for Pryor will be held in January. His widow, Jennifer Pryor, says a major benefit celebrating her husband's life is planned.

Rawls being treated for lung cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Singer Lou Rawls is being treated for lung cancer, and his estranged wife said he also has brain cancer and suggested his condition is dire.

"Don't count me out, brother," Rawls said Thursday night from his room at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. "There have been many people who have been diagnosed with this kind of thing, and they're still jumpin' and pumpin'."

Rawls, in the interview with the *Arizona Republic*, said he has received alternative and traditional medical treatments for lung cancer. He said he quit his regular smoking habit 35 years ago.

The lung cancer was diagnosed a year ago and the brain cancer in May, his estranged wife, Nina, said during a marriage annulment hearing Thursday in Arizona.

"By his doctor's admission, he is not expected to live much more," she said. Rawls' attorney, Robert L. Schwartz, attended the annulment hearing, but did not discuss the singer's prognosis.

Rawls, who has lived in Scottsdale, Ariz., since 2003, said in court papers that he is trying to annul his two-year marriage and protect hundreds of thousands of dollars of assets that his wife "absconded with."

His estranged wife, who has worked as Rawls' manager since 2003, says she transferred nearly

\$350,000 into an account that she solely controls to prevent one of Rawls' two adult daughters from seizing the money.

Rawls, 70, has sold more than 40 million albums and won three Grammys during a career spanning more than four decades.

His voice has been described as "sweet as sugar, soft as velvet, strong as steel, smooth as butter." His hits include "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing," "Dead End Street" and "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine."

He has also appeared on

television shows and in movies, including "Leaving Las Vegas" and "Blues Brothers 2000."

His charitable work has included telethons that helped the United Negro College Fund raise nearly \$200 million.

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