



**ASK DEANNA!**  
*Real People,  
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I think I'm in a relationship that is one-sided. In the beginning my boyfriend and I shared a lot, communication was good and we talked about our goals. Now we don't do anything recreational unless I make a suggestion and pay for everything. I keep trying to love him, support him and find out what's going on. He won't respond but he won't be rude nor leave the house. I'm very confused and these mixed signals make it worse. How do I get through to him?

Going Crazy  
Toledo, OH

Dear Going Crazy:

Your boyfriend has simply fallen out of love with you. He thinks he's being nice and respectful, but he's really being dishonest with you. He has some pent up feelings and thoughts that will only come out if you ask direct questions. You should ask him to share his feelings about the relationship, find out where you stand and if he wants to be with you. Don't make assumptions, but rely on his direct response and actions, and be willing to take the good with the bad.

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Dear Deanna!

My cousin is dating someone but they have an open relationship and have been known to date other people. They still have a good relationship because they are upfront with everything. Now, her boyfriend is interested in dating me on the side. I am also interested in him but I don't know how my cousin will react. I know it wouldn't be anything serious because they often joke about the people that try to come between them. Should I date him anyway?

Anonymous  
Dallas, TX

Dear Anonymous:

This is not the solution if you want something meaningful in a relationship complete with respect and sincerity. You already know going in that you would have your cousin's leftovers and everyone else's because he's a recreational dater. Then you have to ask yourself if this man is worth the confusion with your cousin and family drama that will be sure to follow. Choose someone else to date unless you purposely want to be second fiddle with no options.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm engaged to a good man and we love each other. He cheated on me and got someone pregnant and I stuck by his side from the beginning to the end. He has no plans of leaving me but the child's mother doesn't understand that. She's using every trick she can think of but he won't budge. We are getting married soon. Am I supposed to sit and watch, or is there something I can do to help him?

Committed  
Hickory, NC

Dear Committed:

It's good that you're standing by your man and even better that you're getting married. Your future husband obviously told this woman things she wanted to hear because there's a baby and she has hope. Your husband is the key to this puzzle. He needs to establish a paternity suit, make child support decisions and a custody arrangement. You need to support him while he puts things order and then go into a clean marriage with no baggage.

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# Winfrey makes diet books a hit

NEW YORK (AP) - The Oprah book club has been quiet for months, but the Winfrey touch remains golden.

Just ask the publishers of diet doctors Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz.

Since an appearance last Thursday on Winfrey's television talk show, books by Roizen and Oz have occupied the top three spots on the best seller list of Amazon.com, with customers buying both the book alone and the book and DVD of their new work, "YOU: On a Diet," and the hard-cover edition of a previous text, "YOU: The Owner's Manual," a million seller in 2005 thanks in part to Winfrey.

"Oprah obviously has a passion for their work. It's very exciting," said Martha Levin, publisher of the Free Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster that has increased the print run of "YOU: On a Diet," from 650,000 to 950,000.

Roizen and Oz specialize in easy-to-understand guides to healthy living, written with hip, simple language. The authors regard the human body as a house — the heart is the water main, the digestive system part of the plumbing and the bones the foundation. Winfrey's support for Roizen and Oz is separate from her book club picks, which virtually guarantees hundreds of thousands of sales. Her last official selection was 10 months ago, when she chose Elie Wiesel's "Night," her longest hiatus since she suspended the club for a year in 2002-2003.

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"It has been a long time," Levin told the AP on Sunday, "and publishers have been thinking about her club with nostalgia."

Before "Night," Winfrey chose James Frey's "A Million Little Pieces," which she eventually scorned after the author acknowledged that his memoir contained numerous fabrications.

A spokeswoman for Winfrey told The Associated Press in a recent interview that a new book club selection was planned, but declined to say when.

# Houston says she's 'great'

NEW YORK (AP) - Whitney Houston, who has announced her split from Bobby Brown after a tumultuous 14-year marriage, is stepping out as a new woman.

Houston, 43, was escorted to a benefit for juvenile diabetes research in Beverly Hills, Calif., by her longtime record producer, Clive Davis, *People* magazine reported Monday on its website.

"I feel great," Houston was quoted as saying, while

Davis, one of Saturday evening's honorees, told *People*: "We're going to make a killer album."

A blond Houston, wearing a black gown and diamond earrings, sat at the main table for the 17th Carousel of Hope Ball with Halle Berry and Berry's boyfriend, model Gabriel Aubry, *People* said.

"American Idol" runner-up Katharine McPhee sang Houston's "I Have Nothing" at the event.

"It's her first big appear-

ance since the breakup," McPhee, 22, was quoted as saying on the arrivals carpet. "I would love to sing with her, but unfortunately all eyes are on me."

Houston filed divorce papers in Orange County Superior Court two weeks ago, a month after filing for legal separation from Brown.

In the separation papers, the pop singer asked for custody of the couple's 13-year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina, and that Brown, 37, will be

allowed visitation rights.

The couple wed in 1992, with Houston at the height of her fame as a Grammy-winning superstar known for hits such as "I Will Always Love You."

During their marriage, Brown was arrested for drugs and alcohol, and Houston entered drug rehabilitation programs twice.

Brown won acclaim for his gritty R&B songs as a one-time member of the boy band New Edition.

# Black suicide rate concerns

CHICAGO (AP) - More U.S. Blacks attempt suicide than previously thought, according to a landmark study that could help explode the myth that Black suicides are rare because of a mindset that took hold during slavery.

The first nationally representative study to look at attempted suicide among Blacks found that about 70,000 African-Americans try to kill themselves each year and 4 percent, or roughly 1.4 million, attempt suicide at least once in their lives.

That lifetime rate is similar to that of Whites but higher than the 2.8 percent found among Blacks in previous surveys.

Other research has shown that the actual suicide rate in Whites is about twice as high as in Blacks, though rising rates among young Black men have narrowed the racial gap.

Still, there is a common misconception that suicide is rare in the Black community because of cultural and religious beliefs dating back to slavery times. The study strengthens evidence showing that belief is false, said University of Michigan re-

searcher Sean Joe, the study's lead author.

The findings appear in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The researchers analyzed data from a national survey involving 5,181 Blacks age 18 and older. They were questioned about suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts between 2001 and 2003. Data on completed suicides was not included.

The study is the first to look at suicidal behavior among the two leading eth-

nic groups within the U.S. Black community — African-Americans and Caribbean-Americans.

The lifetime prevalence of suicide attempts was much higher among Caribbean-American Black men, at 7.5 percent, suggesting that about 53,000 try at least once to kill themselves.

The reasons for that relatively high rate are uncertain. Although the study lacked data on how long Caribbean-American Blacks and their ancestors had been in this country, it is likely many

were more recent arrivals than African-Americans and, thus, more vulnerable to frustrations with discrimination and other societal pressures, said Dr. Carl Bell, a psychiatry professor at the University of Illinois' Chicago campus and expert on mental health issues in the Black community.

"There is little or no information that is out there that is well-studied and well-documented. From that perspective, this is a huge contribution [that will help men-] (See Suicide, Page 13)



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