



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

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

Dear Deanna!

I've been in relationships during the holiday season for the past 6 years. Every year, whatever man I've dated, he's dumped me right at Christmas. It has always been someone different and I can't figure out what I've done wrong. I love the holidays and enjoy decorating, buying gifts and going all out for the celebration. After the fact, each of them says it isn't me, but they prefer not to spend much money during the holiday. How do I avoid being dumped this year?

Holiday Blues  
Charleston, SC

Dear Holiday Blues:

Jesus is the reason for the Christmas holiday and perhaps you should remember that. It appears the men you've dated may be offended because you place so much emphasis on the commercial aspect of the holiday. With your next relationship, have dialogue with your mate and find out his feelings on Christmas, his approach to faith and how he celebrates. You can plan to celebrate together and this should prevent you from waking up alone on Christmas Day.

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Dear Deanna!

I gave my girlfriend an ultimatum to choose her girlfriends or me. I'm patient, but enough is enough. I've been sitting home with our kids on the weekends while she hangs out. Her cell phone always interrupts our quality time. We can't go to a restaurant without her pals showing up. Movies are out of the question because they get invited also. Her friends won't come to the house because they know I'm there. How do I regain control of my relationship?

Fed Up Boyfriend  
Online Reader

Dear Fed Up:

The solution is getting your girlfriend to stay home. Encourage her to spend quality time with you by offering new reasons to stay home. You can buy her favorite movies, cater a nice dinner and hire a housekeeper. Since her friends won't interrupt while she's at the house, take this time to let her know you miss her and share your concerns about her activities. Ignore her friends, avoid negativity and focus on your relationship as you head in a positive direction.

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Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend has been volunteering to baby sit, run errands and really help me out. I started getting suspicious when she began staying later when my husband came home. I didn't give it much thought until she washed his laundry. I hit the roof when she bought him some cologne. I kicked her out and gave my husband a few choice words. He accused me of overreacting. I decided to put my foot down and end this mess before it started. Am I wrong?

Mona  
Portland, OR

Dear Mona:

You acted properly before your girlfriend decided to help herself to your husband. He is innocent but like most men, he enjoyed the attention and didn't realize he was being set up. You need to give the cologne back to her and let her know that you no longer need her services. If you choose to remain friends, issue new boundaries that don't include your husband. In the meanwhile, continue to run your household, regulate your marriage and keep it moving.

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# Bebe Moore Campbell leaves literary legacy

By C. Denise Johnson  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
PITTSBURGH (NNPA) - Journalist and award-winning, best-selling author, Elizabeth Bebe Moore Campbell Gordon, died early Nov. 27 in her Los Angeles home from complications due to brain cancer. She was 56.

She continued to write as long as she could, publishing a children's book, "Stompin' at the Savoy," in September. Another children's book, "I'm Hungry Now," is scheduled for a later release.

Campbell's latest adult tome was *The New York Times* best-selling novel "72 Hour Hold," the story of a mother struggling to cope with her daughter's bipolar disorder. Her three other *New York Times* bestsellers are "Brothers and Sisters" (1995), "Singing in the Comeback Choir" (1998), and "What You Owe Me" (2001), which also was a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of 2001.

Campbell's interest in mental health was the catalyst for her first children's book, "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry" (2003), which tells the story of a little girl reared by a mentally ill mother; it won



Legions of fans and critics adored best-selling author Bebe Moore Campbell for her books for youth and adult readers.

the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Outstanding Literature Award for 2003. Her first play, "Even with the Madness," which debuted in New York City in June 2003, also visited the theme of mental illness and the family.

Campbell was on a mission to de-stigmatize the notion of mental illness, particularly within the Black community. She was a member of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and a founding member of NAMI-Inglewood.

"The more we educate the population about the realities of mental illness and make more aware that recovery is possible," Campbell said in

a phone interview last February, "the sooner we can end the marginalization."

Campbell's debut, "Your Blues Ain't Like Mine" (1992), was a *New York Times* notable book of the year and the winner of the NAACP Image Award for Literature. Her journalistic articles appeared in numerous prestigious national publications; her essays, articles and book excerpts appear in many anthologies. She was a regular commentator on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition."

"If this is a fair world, Bebe Moore Campbell will be remembered as [one of] the most important African-American novelist of this

century... Her writing is clean and clear; her emotions run hot, but her most important characteristic is uncompromising intelligence coupled with a perfectionist's eye for detail." So wrote Carolyn See in her *Washington Post* Book World review of Campbell's chart topping "Brothers and Sisters."

An only child, Elizabeth Bebe Moore Campbell Gordon was born Feb. 18, 1950, in Philadelphia, Penn. to Doris Moore and the late George L. P. Moore. She graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh 1971 and an honorary doctorate. Upon graduation, she became a teacher and taught elementary school in Atlanta, Ga., from 1972 to 1975.

Eventually, she left teaching, enrolled in a class and began her ultimate career.

Her favorite quote on being a writer: "Discipline is the servant of inspiration."

"As a writer, she crafted honest and riveting prose, illuminated the legacies of slavery and freedom...her care for the language and rhythms of urban life have given the (See Campbell, Page 10)

# Politics shaping Marsalis album

NEW YORK (AP) - On Wynton Marsalis' upcoming CD, he criticizes political leadership in America, cultural corruption, and sex and violence in rap — and that's just on one song. "I don't speak from outside. I'm not finger-pointing," the 45-year-old jazz great told *The Associated Press* in a recent interview.

"I'm a part of it, I'm speaking from inside of our culture," Marsalis said. "We're not taking a moralistic view. It's not, 'Let me tell y'all how I'm different from you.' It's a comment on our way of life and our culture."

"From the Plantation to the Penitentiary" is due out March 6. Marsalis calls it his most political album in years.

"It's been in my mind for a while. Every decade I like to do one piece that has that kind of social involvement with American culture," he said.

But a look at some of the lyrics shows Marsalis is disenchanted with that culture. "The Return of Romance" appears to take rappers to task, accusing them of being

modern-day minstrels with "song-less tunes"; "Super Capitalism" chastises those obsessed with materialistic goals; and "Where Y'all At," among other things, criticizes '60s radicals and idealists who have lost their revolutionary slant.

"Where Y'all At" is notable because it features Marsalis as the vocalist, delivering a sort of rap chant.

"I always try and do something different. I don't

try to make any of my records the same," he said. "I'm always singing and chanting all over my house. I grew up doing it in New Orleans, chanting and singing and making up rhymes; long before there was rap music we were doing that. That's the New Orleans' way."

Though the album has its pointed moments, Marsalis isn't completely pessimistic about American culture. He

noted the outpouring of support from citizens nationwide after Hurricane Katrina as an example of what people can do when they are aware of a problem.

"That's the one thing the Katrina episode taught us about America. Americans can be moved to do things when they have good information, honest information. People are more serious, people do want to participate in things," he said.

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