



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

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

Dear Deanna!

I feel there's a difference between honesty and not telling the whole truth in a relationship. My husband has the tendency to leave out important facts. I've learned that he'll tell me what he wants me to know and when I find out other things, he claims he forgot. How do you forget that you have a child? How do you forget you got fired, and how do you forget you have a wife? In other words, he's living a double life and I don't know what to do.

Carol  
Charleston, SC

Dear Carol:

Your marriage is missing trust and communication, which are the strongest staples for a solid relationship. There are also some issues with you that may cause your husband to be intimidated, so he's forced to lie about everything. However, there are no excuses for his double life in which he has committed adultery. The both of you need to invest in a therapist to sort out your issues, organize your mess and clear the air of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personalities.

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Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend has finally proposed and I don't know if I want to accept. I had images and thoughts that when it happened, I would feel a certain way and my life would change. My heart feels heavy and now I'm scared and not sure if I want to get married. I realize that I have to answer to him, my life will change and I lose all of my freedom. Is there anything I can do to feel better about this whole thing?

Anonymous  
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You can feel better by realizing that you're not ready for marriage. You may want the benefits of finance, sex and entertainment, but you're not ready for the idea of a committed marriage. Have a talk with your boyfriend so that he doesn't spend money or make any investments knowing you have cold feet. Marriage is a blessing and a benefit. You may need to re-evaluate this situation and be the bigger person and make the right decision to walk away.

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Dear Deanna!

My daughter has a two-year-old son and they both live with me. I have rules as far as anyone eating in certain areas, cleaning up and purchasing their own toiletries. She allows my grandson to run wild all over the place, there are juice stains and fingerprints everywhere, and my carpet is ruined. Then to make matters worse, she uses my detergent and cleaning supplies. I work full time and I am stressed because they're ruining my place. How do I handle this?

Stressed Grandma  
Glen Burney, MD

Dear Grandma:

Your grandson and your daughter both need discipline. You have to realize the toddler is going to be a handful and he'll be into everything on a regular basis. This is no excuse because your daughter should be teaching him a few things. He's at a curious stage, but he can use a few taps on those little hands when they wander. Put your foot down to your daughter that she needs to take care of her child and stop being a freeloader — or she's out — and keep it moving.

Write: Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com.

# Film gives U.S. bad diagnosis

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

Michael Moore has made a career of exposing hypocrisy in the ranks of corporate and political bureaucracies. His first film, "Roger and Me" (1989), delineated the economic blight visited upon Flint, Mich., in the wake of General Motors' business decision to close down its factories in his hometown and to outsource those jobs to Mexico.

The controversial gadfly's next target was the gun lobby in "Bowling for Columbine" (2002), a picture for which he won the Academy Award for best documentary. Next, with "Fahrenheit 9/11" (2004), he questioned whether President Bush might have had a hidden agenda in declaring war on Iraq.

Now, he takes aim at America's healthcare system by contrasting the horror stories of patients mistreated by insurance companies domestically with the relatively utopian benefits of socialized medicine as enjoyed by citizens of such countries as Canada, France, England and Cuba. Only closed-minded arch-conservatives are likely to reject the case Moore makes for universal healthcare out of hand, for "SiCKO" is undoubtedly the iconoclastic filmmaker's least divisive documentary to date.

Wisely, he has opted to rely less on his trademark self-aggrandizing and showboating in favor of simply giving his victimized interviewees the limelight, and each one has a very telling and compelling nightmare to relate.

This couple goes bankrupt and moves in with their daughter due to medical bills. That widow tearfully recounts how her late husband had died of kidney cancer after being denied coverage for a potentially life-saving bone marrow transplant, despite the fact that he had a willing donor in a brother who was an exact match.

A father talks about how his insurance company approved cochlear implant surgery in only one of his totally deaf daughter's ears. A guy who accidentally sawed off two fingers recalls having to choose which one he wanted reattached.

And a woman knocked unconscious in a car accident is forced to pay her ambulance bill because the ride had not been pre-approved by her HMO. And so forth.



'SiCKO' lays bare the American healthcare system in all of its disarray and brokenness.

It doesn't take long to figure out that the tail is currently wagging the dog, and that the powerful insurance industry is dictating to doctors how to conduct their practices.

Service has become secondary to making money and more than one physician guiltily confesses on camera to having relied on the flimsiest of excuses to turn away patients, to refuse reimbursement for a valid claim or to

drop a seriously ill patient altogether.

Moore shows how frustrated Americans have begun looking elsewhere for affordable healthcare, and how foreigners are content with socialized medicine. Towards the end, he finally has a little fun when he leads a flotilla of some of the fed up folks we've just watched as they travel to Cuba for free treatment of maladies not covered by their insurance in the

United States. Making it abundantly clear that the U.S. is a very dangerous place to be any combination of poor, sick and old, this flick ostensibly suggests that the American Medical Association ought to consider changing its Hippocratic oath from "First, do no harm," to "First, maximize profits." Excellent (4 stars). Rated PG-13 for brief strong profanity.

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