



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 a long-distance relationship with my girlfriend who I met through a friend. We haven't met but we've dated across two states for five months. I was thinking about marrying her although she's diabetic. We've discussed marriage plans, but now that her diabetes is making her sick, my outlook and plans have changed. She thinks I don't love her anymore, but I don't want to go into a marriage being a caretaker. How should I properly view this situation?

Anonymous
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

Your first mistake is thinking you can fall in love and have a home with a picket fence with a woman from the cyberspace world. You're not dating, and you're not in love because you haven't properly bonded, haven't looked into her eyes, nor have you been around the block. If you were truly in love, diabetes, one leg or blindness wouldn't stop you. You're still a little selfish and need to be honest with your feelings, acknowledge your hesitation, and transition to a friendship of support, conversation and email and nothing more, nothing less.

Dear Deanna!

I live with my mother and sister. I do everything for them, such as laundry, cleaning and cooking. I make sacrifices and they don't appreciate what I do for them. My sister neglects her kids, puts her boyfriend first and embarrasses me. My mom has a new boyfriend, and she does more at his house than ours. My younger sister disrespects me and my mother, and I still get treated badly. How do I get some respect?

Sister in Pain
Online Reader

Dear Sister:

You're living in an abusive situation in the middle of women with low self-esteem, low morals and insecurity. You need to stand up for yourself, stop being a slave, and focus on the immediate situation. Take the time out and tell your mother how you feel and ask her to have a meeting so you can all talk, put together a plan and start working as a team to make things better. If this doesn't work, count the days until you can move out, and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I've been having an affair with a married man for six years. He verbally abuses me and accuses me of being with other men. I've told him that he only does this to cover his guilty conscience. Last year, I took out a restraining order, and now I want to be with him again. He threatened to kill me if I told his wife, and now I've discovered I have an STD, and he's with a young girl. I've been in counseling and now need to know what to do about this situation.

Torn and Confused
Online Reader

Dear Torn:

You need to seek a refund and get your money back from the counselor you paid to help you. You should know from the onset that it's wrong to be with a married man. Then when he starts acting crazy and you choose to stay, you have two fools together. If you have a restraining order, a STD and a death threat, you need to move to another community immediately. While you're moving, seek a new counselor, renew your prayer life and focus on rebuilding your life.

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Freeman funny in end-of-life film

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

The paths of terminally-ill Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson) and Carter Chambers (Morgan Freeman) probably never would have crossed if they hadn't ended-up on a cancer ward with a strictly enforced, two patients per room policy. For the former, as the billionaire businessman who owns the hospital, he could easily have afforded a private suite. But cancer has proven to be a great equalizer, and he finds himself stuck in a bed next to a relatively lowly auto mechanic.

In truth, their difference in social status doesn't mean much anymore, given that they're both sickly and grouchy and have been dealt the same dire prognosis of less than a year.

The commiserating curmudgeons soon discover that they also share an aversion to the idea of just resigning themselves to their fates and slowly wasting away attached to tubes, monitors and high-tech machines.

Determined to go out on their own terms rather than capitulate to cancer, they start compiling a "bucket list" of things they want to do before "kicking the bucket." Giving full vent to their imaginations, they come up with everything from getting tattoos, to visiting the Great Wall of



Morgan Freeman, center, stars with fellow veteran Jack Nicholson in the "Bucket List."

China, the Pyramids and the Taj Mahal, to race car driving and skydiving, to scaling the Himalayan Mountains, to finding the perfect woman, to joining the proverbial Mile High Club while cruising at 30,000 feet in the air aboard Edward's private jet.

The fact that Ed's only visitor in the hospital is his deferential, bespectacled assistant, Thomas (Sean Hayes), means that the rich buzzard is pretty much friendless and free to indulge his fantasies.

But, Carter, a devoted family man, has the wishes of his wife of 47 years (Beverly Todd) and three attentive children to consider. However, once well-heeled Edward offers to foot the entire bill for their hedonistic getaway, Carter can't resist

the chance to spend his waning days doing everything he ever dreamed of.

So, ignoring doctors' orders, they make their break and embark on a macho male-bonding opportunity with the help of the tweedy Thomas who handles the arrangements at each port of call. And as the intrepid gradually check all of the above items off their checklist, they reminisce, philosophize, and most of all, misbehave.

Thus unfolds "The Bucket List," a surprisingly light-hearted saga for such a morbid theme. Directed by Rob Reiner, the movie co-stars Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman in roles they've practically trademarked. Nicholson steals the show as that bombastic bon vivant

we've all come to adore, opposite Freeman's equally endearing portrayal of a wizened sage, wise beyond his years.

The only fly in this otherwise well-oiled buddy adventure's ointment arrives when Carter is temporarily tempted to break his marriage vows by a ready-and-willing, seductive vixen (Rowena King). Not to worry. When was the last time you saw Morgan Freeman touch a woman in a movie who wasn't dead?

It's a feel-good, end-of-life flick that manages to transcend its sobering subject matter and, somehow, buoys one's spirits.

Very Good (3 stars). Rated PG-13 for profanity, mature themes and a sexual reference.

Gangster

(Continued from Page 5)

down certain structures, Bush and Cheney, that's the real gangsters. Look at Halliburton or how they took the presidency, that was gangsterism and they let you know they took it and you can't do anything about it," he said.

Min. Louis Farrakhan, of the Nation of Islam, has long decried the violent and negative portrayals of Blacks, especially young Black men in movies and in music. In recent weeks, he has devoted a series of lectures to the subject. "American Gangster," both the BET series and the movie, have been a direct target of his warning and analysis. "That movie was designed to inspire you to a gangster life. The whole series on BET is designed to inspire young, Black men to more criminal conduct, as though there are no White gangsters. But this is a focus on Black gangsters, and they are now calling you 'the American Gangster,'"

Farrakhan said in a recent lecture. "How did you get to be an American gangster when you are not an American at all?" he asked.

A 1930s probe of the regulation of cinema titled, "Children, Cinema and Censorship: From Dracula to the Dead End Kids," indicates that concerns about media impact on children were not much different than today. When the Great Depression caused American cinema attendance to drop from 100 million to under 40 million, studios began producing talking movies to fill seats, without regard for censors, reformers or moral watchdogs.

Protests forced changes in regulation and shifts in power between film makers, censors, licensing authorities and others.

The advent of crime or gangster films was denounced because of their perceived impact on juvenile delinquency. Despite evidence that children mim-

icked the speech and mannerism in the films, motivated by money, Hollywood produced 78 gangster movies between 1930 and 1933.

"These corporations that control the media know very well that they are sacrificing a whole generation of youth when they come out and they promote these movies with these pathological behaviors," said Rahman Shabazz, an environmentalist and concerned parent.

"The problem isn't 'American Gangster,' but a nationwide systemic racism that feeds on our children, starting from the schools and

leading into the probation department and then the prisons," he said.

"It's interwoven through all of the institutions of people's activity in the U.S., and that means the church, bank, Wall Street, the criminal justice and legal systems, grocery stores, fishing industries. Everything!"

Shabazz said, if Blacks flexed their billion dollar spending power, stronger institutions that serve their interests could be created and BET and others could be brought to their knees.

Charlene Muhammad writes for the Final Call.

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