



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I have three kids with a guy I love a lot. He cheated on me, so I decided to move out and take the kids. The move has affected me financially and emotionally. Yes, I realize no one is perfect and we all have faults, but I'm trying to hang in there for the sake of my kids. My boyfriend and I have to eventually communicate because of the children. How can I do this without falling for his love spell?

Miss Brown
Online Reader

Dear Miss Brown:

Instead of thinking about a love spell, you need to think about raising your kids and providing for their needs. You need to rely on God during this stressful time instead of playing games with the children's unfaithful father. This is a good time to improve your job skills, take a look at your position in life and do things that will benefit your family first. As a woman with three kids, you know what time it is, and you know exactly what kind of communication you need with this man.

Dear Deanna!

I am single and tired of being alone. I've decided that in 2009 I want to get with someone and have a baby. I'm not looking to get married or anything, I just want a baby so I can have something in my life and someone to take care of. Is it normal for me to feel like this?

Vickie M.
Orlando, FL

Dear Vickie:

Hold up. Where's the "Baby Daddy" going to come from? You have issues with yourself that need to be handled before bringing a baby into the mix. Seek some psychiatric help to see what's making you feel so alone and pinpoint what's causing this big void in your life. As for wanting something to take care of, start with a plant or flower and then get bold and work up to a dog before thinking about having a child.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a faithful churchgoer who met a man at a club. He gave me his number and I called him the next day and left a message. He called me back but I didn't answer the phone. Later we met at a coffee shop and talked. Although we've just met, he's getting sexual asking about my lingerie. His birthday came up a week later so I bought him a card. I called him to see how I could get the card to him but he wasn't helpful. Now I don't know if I should give him the card because he didn't go out of his way to try and receive it.

Anonymous
Inglewood, CA

Dear Anonymous:

Good little church girl, you found a devil in the club that sees at you as a tease. He knew you were playing around by not answering the phone when he called. You're doing too much too fast by giving him a card after a week. He thinks you're going to give up the booty just as fast because he's getting personal with the lingerie questions. Keep the card, have a few more cups of coffee and get to know him better before taking another step.

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Beyonce, Hudson snag awards

LOS ANGELES — No, President Barack Obama was not actually present at the 40th Annual NAACP Image Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles February 12, but so many folks were busy paying him props that he dominated the evening anyway.

For instance, Tyler Perry, who co-hosted the event with the outfit-changing Halle Berry, announced early on that "If there hadn't been an N-A-A-C-P, there'd be no O-B-A-M-A," spelling the latter's letters out one-by-one. Later in the evening, Mr. Perry spoke about how the Obama victory made him more proud of "this," pointing to his skin.

"Dreamgirls" Beyonce and Jennifer Hudson both glided away with trophies and wowed the audience with individual performances.

Beyonce won the female artist category, while Hudson picked up the new artist award. They co-starred in the 2006 film "Dreamgirls."

"This is where we come from," Hudson said, accepting the trophy. "So it's always an honor to come home and feel welcome and to feel the love. I really cherish this and appreciate it."

Along with Beyonce and Hudson, will.i.am and Seal performed on stage at the Shrine Auditorium ceremony. The show coincides with the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and kicks off a year-long centennial celebration. "The Secret Life of Bees"

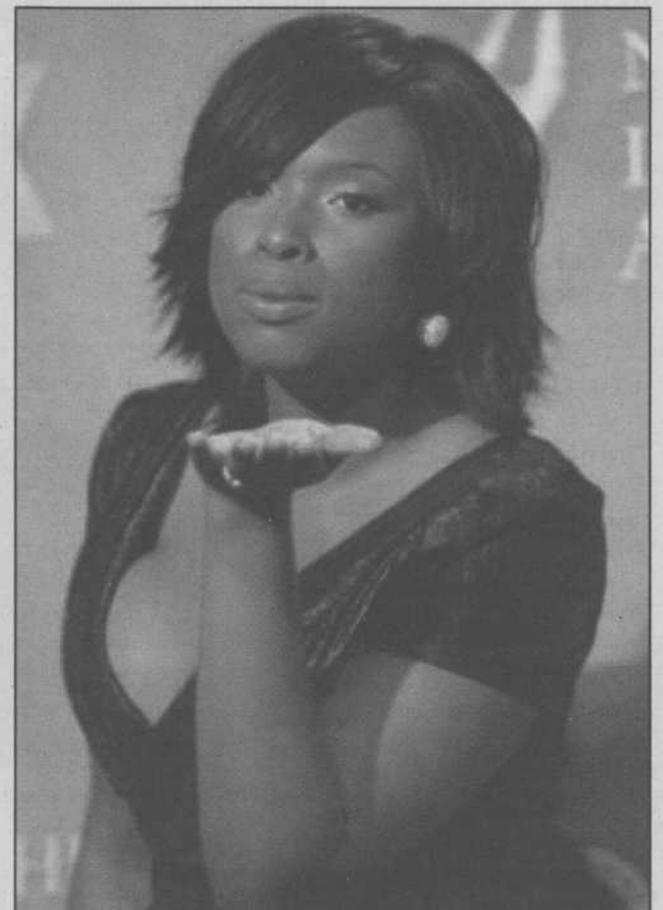
won for motion picture. "Grey's Anatomy" won for TV drama. Several of the winners were awarded before the live ceremony, including Chandra Wilson from "Grey's Anatomy" for actress in a drama series, Columbus Short from "Cadillac Records" for supporting actor in a motion picture and singer-actor Jamie Foxx for male artist.

Chris Brown, who's accused in a domestic dispute that reportedly involves pop superstar Rihanna, was up against Foxx with Common, John Legend and will.i.am for the male artist trophy. Rihanna was competing against Beyonce with Alicia Keys, Jennifer Hudson and Mariah Carey for the female artist award. Neither Brown or Rihanna were in attendance.

Sean "Diddy" Combs picked up the TV movie actor trophy for his role in "A Raisin in the Sun." Other acting winners included Hill Harper for "CSI: NY," Tracee Ellis Ross for "Girlfriends," Taraji P. Henson for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and Will Smith and Rosario Dawson for "Seven Pounds."

The awards honor achievements and performances of people of color in TV, film, music and literature.

Former Vice President Al Gore and Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai received the Chairman's Award. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali won the President's Award. Hip-hop mogul Russell



Jennifer Hudson blows a kiss. The singer won several trophies at the annual NAACP Image Awards last week.

Simmons was given the Vanguard Award.

"I discovered that giving made me happy," Simmons said during his acceptance speech alongside daughters Ming and Aoki, who precariously held up his trophy and counted down his remaining speech time. "As you get older, that's the easy route, so it's always been such an easy thing. It seems kinda crazy to be honored for it."

As the closing credits rolled, Stevie Wonder brought the congregation to its feet with a spirited rendition of his classic "Black Man," revising the lyrics to include a timely refrain about who else but Barack Obama!

NAACP Image Award Winners

Film Categories

Best Picture — "The Secret Life of Bees"

Best Director — Gina Prince-Bythewood, "The Secret Life of Bees"

Best Actor — Will Smith, "Seven Pounds"

Best Actress — Rosario Dawson, "Seven Pounds"

Supporting Actor — Columbus Short, "Cadillac Records"

Supporting Actress — Taraji P. Henson, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"

Independent Film — "Slumdog Millionaire"

Documentary — "The Black List"

Foreign Film — "The Class"

Best Screenplay — Jenny Lumet, "Rachel Get-

ting Married"

Television Categories

Best Comedy Series — "Tyler Perry's House of Payne"

Best Actor in a Comedy Series — LaVan Davis, "Tyler Perry's House of Payne"

Best Actress in a Comedy Series — Tracee Ellis Ross, "Girlfriends"

Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series — Lance Gross, "Tyler Perry's House of Payne"

Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series — Keshia Knight Pulliam, "Tyler Perry's House of Payne"

Best Dramatic Series — "Grey's Anatomy"

Best Actor in a Dramatic Series — Hill Harper, "CSI: NY"

Best Actress in a Dramatic Series — Chandra Wilson, "Grey's Anatomy"

Supporting Actor in a Dramatic Series — Taye Diggs, "Private Practice"

Supporting Actress in a Dramatic Series — Angela Bassett, "ER"

Made-for-TV Movie, Miniseries or Dramatic Special — "A Raisin in the Sun"

Best Actor in a Made-for-TV Movie, Miniseries or Dramatic Special — Sean Combs, "A Raisin in the Sun"

Best Actress in a Made-for-TV Movie, Miniseries or Dramatic Special — Phylicia Rashad, "A Raisin in the Sun"

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While Hudson, above, won the new artist award, Beyonce (pictured) won for female artist. The awards were in LA.