

Husband lied, wife must cover for him

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband has always been a secretive man. I have tried not to pry into his business, but it has come to my attention — quite accidentally — that he has run afoul of the law in the past in some financial matters, and he doesn’t want anyone to know about it. Is it possible that he can keep this from his employer, friends and family? That’s what he wants. I am feeling very irritated that he expects me to act like nothing is wrong. — J.T.

Dear J.T.: Obviously, it would have been much more honest of your husband to tell you his dark secret well before you were married.

The fact that you found out by accident and then were asked to keep it from others is only adding insult to injury. Instead of apologizing to you for withholding this important information, your husband is trying to use your silence as a way to make himself look better.

What he doesn’t seem to realize is that he has violated the trust that you two had built up during the marriage, and apparently he just assumes you are there to cover for him.

It is not necessary for you to air all your dirty laundry in public — your husband’s financial woes and bad decisions are not really most people’s business. But he should be aware that records are much more accessible today and that his current and future employers might catch wind of this. He needs to prepare himself to own up to his past troubles, especially if he has already paid his debt to society.

That he is running his financial affairs properly now could become a plus for him. What you choose to share with family members should be a joint decision, but you have a right to ask him to be honest with the people who care for him, including you. Tell him how you feel.

* * *

Dear Dr. Brothers: Although I try to be hip and keep the lines of communication open with my 15-year-old daughter, I can’t figure out where she is getting her attitudes



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask

Dr. Brothers

toward sex. I pride myself on being a good mom as well as being able to remember what it was like to be a kid. But when my daughter tells me she is “experimenting” with sex and doesn’t seem to care who knows it, I don’t know what to say. In my day, girls were constantly worrying about their reputation, and that’s what separated the nice girls from the bad ones. Help! — V.E.

Dear V.E.: First, you should be very pleased that your daughter is so open with you. Many teens, by her age, have turned into sullen, uncommunicative strangers. So keep up all the good work you have put in thus far in order to be on top of what’s happening in your daughter’s life — both her feelings and her actions.

I’m sure it is disappointing and even alarming to find that she doesn’t share your old-fashioned values of being a “nice” girl by abstaining from sex or at least from admitting it.

Think about it. Since the hormones are raging in the teenage years and few have the interest or motivation to keep their sexuality totally shut down, what you can end up with is teens who are acting out sexually but feeling very guilty about it.

Perhaps that is the way you felt as a youth if you ever gave in to temptation. Today’s teens are not ashamed of their actions, and that is not necessarily a negative. Girls who feel they are “bad” are less likely to make good choices in the future. In the meantime, the term “reputation” simply might not hold the terror for today’s teens that it did years ago. But perhaps the term “STD” will. In any case, keep those lines of communication open.

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Sudoku by Dave Green

7			2	6				4
	3		5				9	
	1		3				8	
						3	4	1
3								7
4	5	1						
	4				7		6	
	2				8		1	
8				5	3			2



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This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today’s Sudoku puzzle is below.



7	8	5	2	6	9	1	3	4
2	3	4	5	8	1	7	9	6
9	1	6	3	7	4	2	8	5
6	7	2	8	9	5	3	4	1
3	9	8	4	1	2	6	5	7
4	5	1	7	3	6	8	2	9
1	4	3	9	2	7	5	6	8
5	2	7	6	4	8	9	1	3
8	6	9	1	5	3	4	7	2





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