

Woman's family surprised by new man

By Dr. Joyce Brothers

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm 38, twice divorced, and I'm now marrying for the third time, after being single for almost five years. When I first told my family about this wonderful new man I'd met, my parents were almost more thrilled than I was to hear my news. Even my teenage son was pleased. I failed to mention that he is 28 years older than I am. To make things worse, he's going a bit bald, and what hair he has is white. My father almost fainted when they met, and my mother disguised her feelings, but neither of them thinks it's a good idea. At the moment, my son is so involved with himself that it doesn't seem to matter to him, but will my parents get over this? — L.C.

Dear L.C.: I'm sure they'll eventually come around once they get to know him. Any marriage can stir up jealousy in a father and in the son of the bride-to-be, but once they get acquainted with this man and see him as a separate individual, apart from his age, your situation will improve.

In any case, this is your marriage, and what used to be known as May-December marriages often are extremely successful. One of the reasons may be that both partners have learned from past experiences and mistakes. Typically, parents have a much greater problem with the age difference than do the new couples themselves. Not surprisingly, if both partners have children from previous unions, they too may be less than pleased. If this is the case, it's apt to be related to money and an inheritance they may fear is lost. Sometimes, this eventually can be solved by discussing it and bringing any greed out into the open.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a wonderful husband who's now a good father — at least he is trying hard to be to our firstborn, a son who'll be celebrating his first birthday in less than a month. His birth wasn't easy, and we were both terrified that we'd lose him because of early health problems, but that's all been solved and he couldn't be healthier. I mention the early concerns only because it almost broke us up as a couple. I had no time for or interest in sex. Our parents seemed to sense this, and they're encouraging us to take a three-day holiday and leave our boy with his nanny, with both grandmothers keeping watch, even taking turns living in our house. I'm finding it hard to take them up on this. I feel uncomfortable without our boy, and to my husband's mild irritation, I often sleep with my son. If I go, I'll feel like a bad mother. — D.P.

Dear D.P.: For the welfare of your son, your husband, your marriage and yourself, you need to take this break. What you've described often takes a toll on the quality of a couple's sex life, and it's particularly hard on a husband, who can easily feel left out, as if he's ceased to matter. If this situation isn't recognized and adjustments aren't made, it can lead to jealous feelings toward the child, which can carry over into the long-term relationship between father and child.

Sometimes it's important for couples to remind themselves of all the things they love about each other. This should be a weekend of fun, of recalling the best times in your past, but also of trying new things. Then, before this holiday's over, plan on one night out together each week. When you're back home, sleep with your husband. Unless he's very ill, your son should be in his own bed.

Book reviews to highlight library week

Don't forget next week is National Library Week. Plan to be at Pioneer Memorial Library noon each day of the week as the following book reviews are given.

Monday: Jim Oliver presents his book "Lucille and the XXX Road."

Tuesday: John Van Nostrand presents "Great Plains" by Ian Frazier.

Wednesday: Skip Sharpe presents "An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917 - 1963" by Robert Dallek

Thursday: Ralph Fischer presents "The Man Who Ate the 747" by Bob Sherwood

Friday: Carol Rahn presents "Infidel" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Pizza from Pizza Hut will be served on Tuesday during National Library Week. If you can't make it



Jeff Friesen, library link

• Pioneer Memorial Library director

to the book review on Tuesday you can still support the library. Stop by the library on or before next Tuesday, April 17 and pick up a coupon for Pizza Hut. A portion of the proceeds from all of the purchases on Tuesday at Pizza Hut (as long as you have a coupon) will be used to purchase books for children's programs this summer. Thanks for your support.

This coming week highlights the

role that libraries have in making a positive difference in their community. I encourage all residents to visit the library this week to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available and accessible to all who walk through the library's doors.

Here are 10 of the many reasons to visit your local library:

1. high speed internet access
2. more than 40,000 items avail-

- able for checkout
 3. children's programs
 4. wireless internet access
 5. cake pans
 6. movies
 7. video games
 8. magazine and newspapers
 9. reference services
 10. interlibrary loan
- Best of all you pay absolutely nothing to use them — they are all free
- This is the best week of the year to take advantage of all the library has to offer. Help us celebrate libraries and come together for National Library Week at Pioneer Memorial Library April 15 - 21. See you next week.
- Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St.

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Paul Morrison
and
Jeanette C. Stauffer J.D.
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