

# New husband quickly learns about wife’s big spending habits

Dear Dr. Brothers: I’ve been married only four months, but half of that time was spent on a great honeymoon, paid for by my dad, and during that time I was almost always with my wife. Until recently I had no reason to know how she thought about and handled money.

After I got the first credit-card bill and saw what she’d put on it, I was shocked to discover that she is a first-class spendthrift, while even my own parents have always considered me more of a tightwad. Can we learn to get along? Is it possible for these two extremes to have a happy marriage and not want to kill each other every month when the bills start coming in? — A.N.

Dear A.N.: Of course you can, but it’s going to take discipline on her part and courage on your part, first to simply discuss the seriousness of it and to work with



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

● Ask Dr. Brothers

her on setting up a strict budget that should be written out in bold print so there’ll be no misunderstanding. When exceptions to the rules are necessary — and there will be some that are legitimate — that’s OK, but they should be discussed.

You both should have your own checking account and credit cards. If she works or has her own private income, any difficulties you have should be minimized this way. You’ll probably still need money set aside for house-

hold expenses or general living expenses involving you both. You may need advice on this. Males who haven’t bought groceries or managed households often have no idea of the costs. Should she be a compulsive overspender, she’s going to need to find out why and perhaps work with a support group.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I’m the

mother of three girls, ages 8, 10 and 14. My husband, their father, and I are separated, and he no longer lives in this area, but his younger brother does. He was helpful during the divorce, and has even acted as a babysitter for the girls from time to time when my usual sitter, a girl from our local college, was unavailable. My elder daughter found out that he had sexually molested the youngest, and when she learned this she simply went crazy. She then admitted he’d done the same to her when she was small. I feel angry and guilt for what he’s done, but I don’t want a scene, as it’s a small community.

I’m hoping this isn’t too serious and that he’ll just get out of town on his own. I’ve threatened him with

exposure. Need I do more? — K.J.

Dear K.J.: Yes. If you don’t, he’s going to continue doing the same to other young girls. This is a serious crime that destroys the lives of many young victims, and if you don’t take action to stop him, you, too, are responsible. In some studies, 80 percent of women who’d been sexually abused as youngsters had psychological problems in their relationships with other males, and 40 percent of drug-abusing women and more than 25 percent of prostitutes had been victims as children. Many ran away from home in an attempt to escape abuse.

You need to report this to the police. Your children and the future of others are more important

than your fear of what friends or neighbors will think. All children, male or female, who’ve been sexually abused, whether by strangers or family members, need to get professional counseling from those specifically trained for this problem in order to help them cope with their shame, guilt, anger and fear, and to help them heal.

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# Don’t forget mom



**Jeff Friesen,  
library link**

● Pioneer Memorial  
Library director

According to the World Book encyclopedia, Mother’s Day first received national recognition on May 9, 1914. On that day, Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution stating Mother’s Day would be observed on the second Sunday in May.

It was Anna Jarvis however, who was - and is - officially recognized as the founder of Mother’s Day.

In 1908, a service was held at an Episcopal Church in Grafton, W. Va., to honor Anna’s own deceased mother. Anna’s symbolic gesture that day is, even now, still in effect. She honored her mother with a carnation. To this day a colored carnation means that a person’s mother is living and a white carnation means that a person’s mother has passed away.

There have been million of wonderful moms throughout history including, I hope, your own mom. But who are some of the notable moms in history?

One of the intriguing inquiries behind our nation’s history is those forces that shaped our nation’s presidents.

Of all the influences that shape a president, one of the most influential is, without question, the mother. In the book “First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped the Presidents” author Bonnie Angelo examines the role of the first mothers of our last 11 presidents.

Beginning with Franklin (FDR) and ending with President Clinton, Angelo takes a biographic portrait of the daily lives, thoughts, and feelings of the remarkable moms behind our country’s greatest men. This book reinforces the idea that behind every good man is a good woman.

Going back a little bit further, another strong presidential influence is Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams.

The life and presidency of John Adams may have been altogether different without the “intelligent, strong, and feminine” personality of his wife Abigail. She took on responsibilities that were necessary

as both a wife and partner and, more importantly, necessary in making John a successful president.

Included in these responsibilities were Abigail’s role as a devoted mother, a staunch patriot, an independent thinker, a farmer’s wife, and ultimately a statesman’s wife. The life and times of Abigail and John is well-constructed and depicted through the use of 226 letters written between the couple in the years leading up to, including and then following the Revolutionary War from 1762 - 1784.

Read about Abigail and the Adams family in “The Book of Abigail and John” put together by editors L.H. Butterfield, Marc Friedlaender and Mary-Jo Kline.

Of course, most moms will never end up famously read about as the subject of a biography. But let it be known that all moms are equally important and we appreciate you. Thanks for all you do.

Don’t forget that live potted plants and flowers will be sold 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Community Building. Pick-up some flowers to support the library and then head over to Pioneer Memorial Library and pick-up a free library card for mom.

We hope to see you here - and if you want to be more involved with the library join us at our monthly board meetings 7 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Tuesday, May 15 we will be having the newly formed Pioneer Memorial Library Foundation, Inc annual meeting at 7 a.m. to be immediately followed by the regular monthly Library Board Meeting.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St. and open seven days a week. Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact the Library at 460-4470 or visit our Web site at [www.colbylibrary.com](http://www.colbylibrary.com). As always, we are here to serve you.

## Bestsellers

- PUBLISHERS WEEKLY  
BEST-SELLERS  
HARDCOVER FICTION
1. “Simple Genius” by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)
  2. “The Yiddish Policemen’s Union” by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)
  3. “The Children of Hurin” by J.R.R. Tolkien, edited by Christo-

- pher Tolkien (Houghton Mifflin)
4. “Rant: An Oral Biography Of Buster Casey” by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday)
  5. “The Woods” by Harlan Coben (Dutton Adult)
  6. “All Together Dead” by Charlaine Harris (Ace Hardcover)
  7. “Body Surfing” by Anita Shreve (Little, Brown and Company)



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