

ARLO AND JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



THE GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce



ALLEY OOP by Jack and Carole Bender



HEART OF THE CITY by Mark Tatulli



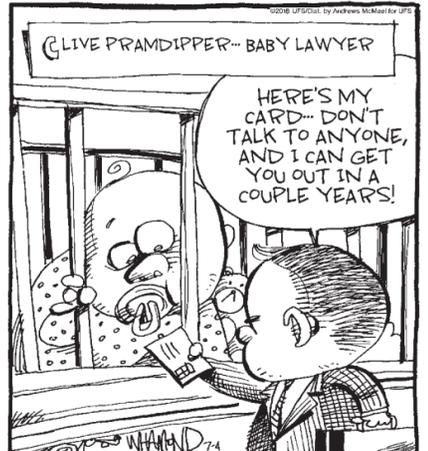
THE BORN LOSER™ by Art & Chip Sansom



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SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

By Harriette Cole

Daughter worries for her grieving mother

DEAR HARRIETTE: My uncle just passed away. He was killed in a drive-by shooting not far from his house. He wasn't involved in a gang; he was in the wrong place at wrong time. My mom was close with him and hasn't been coping well. The police have no leads. Nobody is paying for this senseless murder.

My uncle was a single man without children, so it's just like he's gone. That's it. It's almost like he never existed. My mom can't handle it. She's been drinking a lot and crying. How do I be there for her during this hard time?

— Worried and Mourning, Jersey City, New Jersey

DEAR WORRIED AND MOURNING: What a horrible tragedy. Of course your mother is devastated. Her grief is natural, and it should pass in time. You are wise to seek help, though. Encourage your mother to get counseling from your church or community center. She can also receive counseling through an online therapist. Check out betterhelp.com, a website that matches people with counselors based on their needs. In this way, for a fee that is often lower than average therapy costs, she can get help without leaving home.

You can also encourage your mother to see friends and family members. Suggest to loved ones that they come over to visit. They may need to be pushy at first in order to get her attention.

Finally, check with the local precinct to see if there is a status change about finding your uncle's killer. If the case can be solved, that would at least give your mother some sense of justice.

ents and I got into an argument, and they said I can't stay there anymore. I'm 23 years old and trying to get my life together, but it's taking time. I've been staying with my friend and his family for a couple of weeks. I am working, but not enough to get my own place. I don't want to take advantage of their hospitality, but I'm not stable enough to go anywhere else. How do I show them how thankful I am?

— Struggling to Make It, Bronx, New York

DEAR STRUGGLING TO MAKE IT: Thank goodness you were rescued by your friend and his family. What you can do is be a great houseguest. That means volunteer to have chores that you are responsible for each week. Perhaps there are daily duties you can accept as well. Keep your area tidy, and be mindful of common areas. Give your host family space, meaning when everyone is at home, make sure you make yourself scarce at least part of the time. They should feel like they can be free to engage each other without you for at least part of each day. This doesn't mean you should hide out. Instead, choose to spend some time in your room or in a part of the home where you can have some privacy as you give them space to live their lives as usual.

Meanwhile, save your money. Tell the family your strategy and timeline for moving on. Keep them apprised of your progress.

Keep them apprised of your progress.

(Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.)

DEAR HARRIETTE: I got kicked out of my house. My par-

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- Fishing net
- Bits of threads
- Flat-bottomed boats
- Rock band crew member
- Not generous
- Digestive juice
- liver oil
- "Born in the —"
- What, in Oaxaca
- High sign
- Sighs of relief
- Merriment
- Embroider
- Gator cousins
- Help
- Rand of fiction
- Seize the throne
- Jeer
- Be very frugal
- Estuary
- Not here
- Primary color
- Scale meas.
- NASA counterpart
- Devotee's suffix
- So long!
- "Mystery!" channel
- Tyson stat
- Descend a cliff
- Acid-testing paper
- Remain loyal
- Take to the prom
- Bank jobs
- Give off light

DOWN

- NFL scores
- Nonsense!
- "Exodus" hero
- Grimace
- Toy-block brand
- Jung contemporary
- Atoms with a charge
- Marketplaces
- Big name in ice cream
- Crater edge
- Witness
- Aussie city
- Brunch favorite
- Loosens
- Deed holders
- Like some wages
- Book copier of old
- Wild and reckless
- Money repository
- Fed a line
- Hot springs
- Frozen desserts
- Kitchen whistler
- Vacation spots
- Mess up
- Parks or Lahar
- Sealed with a —
- Arena cry
- Lime cooler
- Frat letter
- Miss Piggy's pronoun
- Coffee dispenser
- Sault — Marie

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| EWE | LOSS | TBSP |
| TEA | EBON | ERGO |
| TAG | NINA | METE |
| AVENGE | PAPA | |
| ERAT | IOTA | |
| | PHASER | HBO |
| PANE | JOY | MEEK |
| EROS | AFR | ODDS |
| TIC | EXTEND | |
| ATEN | YEAH | |
| | USER | ALLEYS |
| OURS | OHIO | REL |
| ANNE | LIMN | INA |
| FOES | LESS | EAT |

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | 16 | | | | |
| | | | | | 17 | | 18 | | | | |
| | 19 | 20 | | | 21 | 22 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | |
| 26 | | | | | 27 | | 28 | | | 29 | |
| 30 | | | | | 31 | | 32 | | | | |
| 33 | | 34 | | | 35 | 36 | | 37 | | | |
| 38 | | | | | 39 | | | 40 | | | |
| | 41 | | | | 42 | | 43 | | | | |
| | | | | | 44 | 45 | | 46 | 47 | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | | | | | 51 | | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | | | | | | | 56 | | | | |
| 57 | | | | | | | | 58 | | | |