

# DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

## He's a prisoner of irrational urges

By Meg Whitcomb

DEAR MEG — I'm 20 years old, doing an 11-year sentence for grand theft auto. I have met some sick guys who are in here for child molestation. They only got three to seven years for their crimes.

I have to live with these sickos, and I hate it. I have a little brother and a sister on the outside, and I'm afraid for them. Every day, crazy thoughts about sickos doing something to hurt these kids run through my mind. I never had these feelings before I went to prison.

I have to see these guys every day, and it isn't easy keeping my hands off them. What can I do before I do something I'll regret? — ANONYMOUS, JOLIET, ILL.

DEAR ANON — As you know, child molesters rank the lowest of the low in the prison pecking order. They are the objects of loathing, fear and often violence by other inmates. This is unfortunate, because most of them belong in psycho wards instead of jails.

Your obsession with them, however, is disproportionate and dangerous. It's also preventing you from coming to grips with the problems that landed you behind bars in the first place. Talk to the prison psychiatrist. You should use your sentence for rehabilitation, not irrational revenge.

DEAR MEG — Since the birth of our second child 16 months ago, my husband has stopped making love with me.

He says he's afraid I'll get pregnant, even though I'm using birth control. Every now and then we have a quickie.

We've been married eight years, and this leads me to believe there may be someone else. What do you think? — NO SATISFACTION, BOCA RATON, FLA.

DEAR NO — It's not uncommon for a new parent to lose interest in sex when the baby comes. Fatigue, new responsibilities, fear of getting pregnant again — all can contribute to decreased sexual desire.

But 16 months says something else is bugging your husband. An occasional quickie is no substitute for a loving, sexual relationship. Talk this over with him. If he can't come up with an answer, both of you should get some help.

DEAR MEG — In my day, women were crazy about fur coats. I'm a World War II vet (widowed), and I'm dating a woman in her late 20s.

Last month, I bought her a fur coat for her birthday. Much to my dismay, she said she doesn't believe in wearing fur because she's an animal lover. Then she said if I really wanted to spend money on her, I could pay her tuition. She went back to school after getting a divorce and is earning a graduate degree in English.

I'm mystified by her behavior. She was very polite when she told me how

she felt, but I'm still hurt. I told her to keep the coat anyway.

Three days later, she told me she'd given it to a homeless person. That hurt even more. I don't know what young women want these days. — CHANGING TIMES, BOSTON

DEAR CHANGING — You happened to hit on a gal who doesn't believe in wearing the skins of fur-bearing animals, and if that's the way she feels, that's the way it is.

I'd say the difference in your ages is a gulf rather than a generation gap. And I can't help but suspect she's more interested in your money than she is in you. If I were you, I'd look for someone more congenial who shares your perspective.

DEAR MEG — My parents were divorced when I was 5. My father moved to Florida, so we didn't see him often.

Dad is well-to-do, and always has been, but he refused to help Mom raise us, and we never got gifts for birthdays or holidays. I hold a grudge because of this.

I'm 22 now and married. Before the wedding, Dad suggested that Barry and I move to Florida, and he would help us out. (He didn't help pay for the wedding.)

We're in Florida now, and I have braces on my teeth at last. (I've needed them for years, but Mom couldn't afford them.) The problem is, Barry and I are not happy here and want to go home to Chicago, but I'm afraid Dad will stop paying the orthodontist bills. We're talking over \$2,000 until I

get them off, hopefully by next December. — NO FLORIDA FAN, OCALA, FLA.

DEAR N.F.F. — You can't have it both ways. Unless you want to pass a tin cup to pay the bills, I'd grin and bear it where you are.

Dad may not have shown a heart of gold in the past, but you're foolish to feel that reconciliation with him is better never than late. Getting to

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know him as an adult is a worthy cause. It could help you get your head and heart — not just your teeth — straight.

DEAR MEG — My boyfriend is a chauvinist. Hal wants more than I can give. I buy him nice things and make life easy for him, but I don't get anything in return. I do far more than I should, but he doesn't appreciate it.

At Christmas, I thought maybe he'd give me something nice, like a piece of jewelry, but he fixed the clutch in my car instead. This guy can afford almost anything, but he's never given me a thing.

I love him, but I wonder what I should do about the way he treats me. — BEWILDERED, SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR BEWILDERED — Rather than wonder why he treats you the way he does, I'd wonder why you love a guy who has nothing to offer.

Psychiatrist Sonya Friedman has written a terrific book about men like Hal: "A Hero Is More Than Just a Sandwich" (Putnam, \$4.50). It should help you understand why you're so vulnerable to Hal and his kind.

Friedman defines a guy like Hal as "instant soufflé — demands to be served immediately or he'll leave you flat." Read her book. You'll learn and laugh a lot.

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