

Adviser

FATHER KNOWS BEST

ROSS BRUNDRETT HELPS YOU SOLVE SOME IMAGINED, YET TRICKY, FAMILY PROBLEMS
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Q Recently I signed a new deal with my employers that everyone at the time said was fantastic and groundbreaking. But now I'm beginning to think it was all part of a conspiracy to strip away my power base. I will continue to be top dog for two years, but then this young pup, who is everyone's pet, will take over. I will be given this new overseeing job in which I get to hold a clipboard and look serious but apparently doesn't involve any actual activities. I'll still be fabulously well-paid, but a man of my ego, and blessed with a serious moustache, doesn't do anything just for the money. I still want to roll up my sleeves and, you know, get angry at people because that's what I do. Is it too late to walk away from the deal?

Mick, of Melbourne

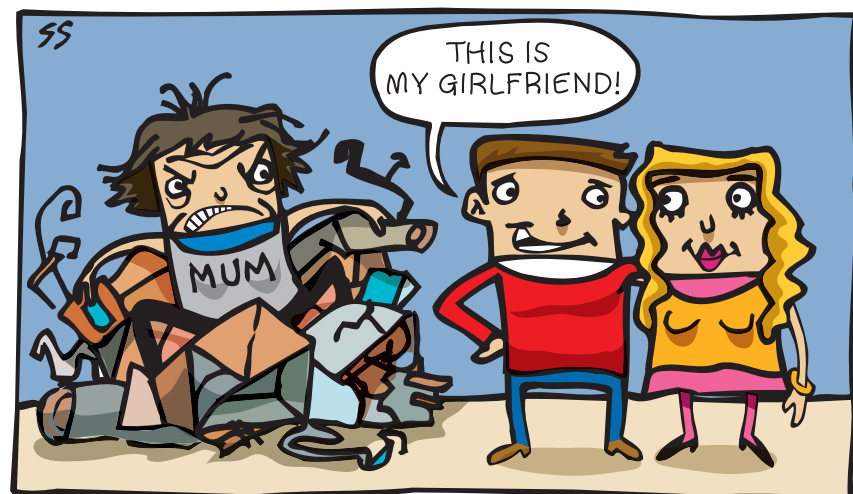
A Sometimes people do get carried away with smooth-talking types and sometimes people feel obligated to stand by their word. But my simple reasoning is that people and circumstances change and we're on this earth for only a short time, so we have a duty to get the most out of it. That's why it is OK to get divorced or change jobs or, in extremely serious circumstances, desert your footy club. Seems to me, Mick, you should play the hand that God dealt you. Even when you lose that power, you can always get a job on the side as a lollipop man at a school crossing. You get a sign and a whistle and people have to obey you.

Q Why is that boys abandon their mums as soon as a girlfriend comes on the scene? I used to tuck my darling boy into bed at nights. I'd give him treats and make his lunch for school. I'd do all of that and more — where was his girlfriend then? Yet now he is doing all right for himself, poor old mum is shafted and the girlfriend gets to go on trips with him and is treated to restaurants and have nice things given to her. The best he could do for me was an email for my birthday. I deserve better. What would you say to him?

Mothers Should Rule, Brisbane

A Here's the first tip: Don't expect kids to ever be grateful for bringing them into the world because apparently they DIDN'T ASK TO BE. Most of them were happy just floating around in the dreamy nether world of before life, which explains why it is so hard to get them out of bed at weekends. Second: mums should never compete with girlfriends because girlfriends provide something mums cannot, and I'm not talking about apple pie. So what would I say to him? Well, it's just my opinion, but I think he needs to point his shoulder down the wicket more in his delivery stride.

“EVEN WHEN YOU LOSE THAT POWER, YOU CAN ALWAYS GET A JOB AS A LOLLIPOP MAN”



PILLOW TALK

LYNDA CARLYLE ANSWERS YOUR SEX, LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS QUESTIONS
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Q I am really self-conscious about my bits. A guy once made a comment and I nearly died of embarrassment. Am I abnormal?

A I remember being told that all girls look the same "down there". It's like saying we all have a mouth, but, of course no two are exactly alike. Each of us has bits that are individual and unique. I love to compare women's intimate parts to beautiful and exquisite flowers. Orchids especially inspire my imagination. Most women judge

their appearance by comparing themselves with air-brushed models they see in girlie magazines. Censorship laws impose tight restrictions about exactly how much can be shown, creating a situation in which an unreal picture is promoted. The porn industry loves a certain look and some women succumb to plastic surgery to achieve it. Can you imagine how boring it would be if everyone looked the same? No doubt being a little bit different will come back into fashion. Love your bits — they're exclusive, distinctive and special.

RELATIONSHIPS

WORDS MEGAN MILLER
PICTURE ANDREW TAUBER



Comedian Dave O'Neil and his twin Glenn haven't lived in the same country for 17 years but share a bond over babies and beats. Just don't mention Dave's weight or lost loves

GLENN O'NEIL

WE GREW up in Mitcham, and as kids we always got along. We shared a room until we were 20, until we left home. Then we moved out together and into a share house until I left Australia when I was 27. I've been away 17 years.

I live in Geneva, Switzerland. I work for myself as a consultant mainly for humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross and UN. I'm like an evaluator of programs. Imagine if the UN has set up a project somewhere and two years later they want to find out the results, I get sent there to talk to people and see how well it's worked. Last year I went to the Congo to review a radio station the UN was funding.

I can't recall any major fights with Dave. With the ladies, I think we both had equal success. We were never stealing girlfriends off each other like people often think twins do.

People used to always mistake us up until the age of 25, then Dave says he discovered McDonald's. He was always slightly heavier than me. In primary school though, I had to wear brown shoes and Dave had to wear black so teachers would know who was who. In a way I worry about his weight now from a health point of view, but he seems happy.

I do miss him. We talk on the phone about once a month. We both have two sons and a daughter. (Glenn has Dante, 12, Livio, 8, and Flavia, 2, and Dave has Jasper, 6, Kitty, 3, and Barney, eight months).

We have been separated for a long time, but sometimes we have coincidences — Dave will say "Have you read this book?" and I'll say

"That's funny, I'm just reading it now". Or Dave will give me a book or a CD and I'll have just bought it, though we're on separate sides of the world. We once discovered we're reading a very obscure book at the same time called *The Good Soldier Svejk*.

We were both in a band together in the '80s called Captain Cocoa. I don't feel jealous that Dave stayed in entertainment, even though I was the frontman of Captain Cocoa. Dave was the bass player. I'm happy for him.

After the Cocos split and we failed to have that massive fame we were hoping for, I left the country to work for the Red Cross for eight years in field missions around the world, from Sri Lanka to Bosnia to Somalia to Rwanda to Geneva, where I met my wife, Roberta.

I still play music. I play the mandolin and the ukulele in an alternative folk band in Geneva called Kadia.

I don't know if I could do what Dave does. I teach media and communication courses part-time at an international university in Geneva and I tell the students, "You think I'm funny but I'm an amateur, my brother's a professional".

I got up and sang in front of people but I don't know about making them laugh. I saw Dave's first stand-up gig on Smith St in Collingwood. When I see him perform I'm sort of double-laughing because I know the history behind the jokes.

I was in Melbourne last about three or four years ago. It's hard to get back because of the expense. I do miss Melbourne a bit. It'd be nice if all our kids could spend more time together. We hope in the future Dante can come here on some kind of exchange and his cousins can come to visit us."