



Our Son And His Wife

Don't Want Any Children?

Dear Carole:

Our son and his wife of two years have just told us that they do not want to have any children - ever. We are heart broken. Since our son is an only child we'll never be able to become grandparents. This is so unfair. We feel angry, hurt and helpless. We've talked and talked to them but they say we'll never understand their reasons. They're right! We don't understand. We think they are being very selfish.

They say that their jobs and each other is all they have time for. We told them that they will be sorry when they grow older. They say it's not our decision. We don't know what to do next. Do you have any advice for us?

"Hurt Parents"

Dear Hurt Parents:

It is understandable that you have strong feelings about the decision your son and his wife have made. You are especially disappointed about their decision since your son is an only child. Don't judge them harshly because they have made a choice that is different than what you expected and hoped for. Support their love for you and for each other. And try to accept their decision. Gibran writes in "The Prophet."

"Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts ... You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday."

Carole

Dear Carole:

My husband's parents live close by. They're just a 10 minute drive away so we see them quite often. That's what makes the situation so bad. We

disagree with the way they play favorites with our children. One of our sons is of a lighter complexion than our other son and daughter. Mama and Dad seem to give more attention to our lighter son than they do to our other son and daughter.

They play favorites in small ways. But we notice it and now it's causing problems among the children. We don't want any of our children to think they are better than their brother or sister. We think the grandparents are very wrong by not treating the children equally. They tell us they love the children the same but their actions tell us differently.

My husband and I think that talking about this situation to his parents hasn't helped make things better at all. What should we do?

T.S.

Dear T.S.:

Try talking to your parents again. This time, explain to them that you have to protect the emotional well being of each of your children. It is important for each child to feel wanted and accepted regardless of differences in color, abilities or other factors. Tell your parents how their treatment of the children affects their relationships with each other.

If your parents continue to create a situation which causes problems that you cannot accept, you may need to make some changes. Those changes can be in the form of fewer and shorter visits.

Carole

Editor's Note: Carole B. Ricks, an M.S.W., A.C.S.W. social worker, has a private practice in Charlotte as a counselor. She is featured in "Carole's Corner" Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. on WPEG radio 98-FM. If you have personal adjustment, parent-child or marriage problems that concern you, write:

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"Dreams Don't Die" Is Wednesday Night Movie

"Dreams Don't Die," a hard-hitting story of teenage love and survival amidst the harsh realities of the urban combat zone - a world that has spawned the child criminal pushing drugs and getting rich - airs as "The ABC Wednesday Night Movie," June 27 at 9 p.m. on WSOC-TV, Channel 9.

Starring are Ike Eisenmann, Trini Alvarado and Israel Juarbe. Paul Winfield is special guest star, and James Broderick makes a special appearance.

"Captain Kirk" is the drug pusher, chauffeured around, contemptuous of authority, confident that he is above the law. He is not old enough legally to pilot his Fleetwood Cadillac through the rubble-strewn streets of Ridgewood, Brooklyn, but just young enough (under 16) by drug statutes to sell his white powder with impunity.

The worse that can happen to Kirk is he may be hauled into family court, lectured to, and have his hand slapped before an underworld lawyer reclaims him so that he can resume his illicit business.

With his 16th birthday fast approaching, Kirk must find a younger successor. He recruits Teresa. He likes her style. She is pretty. She is poor. She has no roots. She is dazzled by his big talk and, with her dream of escaping the ghetto, becomes easy prey.

Teresa is in love with 17-year-old Danny Baker, a subway graffiti painter of extraordinary raw talent. He is respected and recognized by all the other sub-

way painters - most of whom work in cliques as "King of the Line." Seeing his "art" on a subway train as it rolls by on elevated tracks is Danny's idea of fame.

One night, Danny is nailed by Banks, a black cop (Winfield), who rails against the vandalism of the "white boy writer." And yet Banks is impressed with the youngster's talent. He takes him and Teresa to a museum where graffiti-like works are exhibited and where Danny can appreciate a more useful direction for his ambition. A warm surrogate father-son relationship is formed.

Banks, the dedicated

cop, believes in working the streets and making people's lives better and making the mob uncomfortable. This makes him a prime candidate for extinction in the eyes of Captain Kirk's own lord of

the underworld, Gavin (Broderick), and so Kirk is encouraged by Gavin to get rid of Banks.

Kirk, hoping to prove he is capable of a criminal responsibility and to avoid "retirement" at age 26, hires a kid killer to finish off Banks. The developing events provide the final motivation and dramatic thrust of a gritty urban drama inspired by real-life reports.

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