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# Dear Abby

## Know-it-all in-law could be insecure

**ABIGAIL VAN BUREN** Syndicated Columnist

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister, "Frannie," and I are both professionals, married to men who are complete opposites. My husband, "Grady," is a blue-collar guy who never attended college. He has many wonderful qualities, but lacks self-esteem. Frannie's husband, "Austin," has a graduate degree and a professional career. He is also a "know-it-all." This makes my husband feel insecure.

**I have talked to my sister, but she says I need to talk to Austin. If I do, it will cause a huge argument. Any suggestions? — FRANNIE'S KID SIS**

**DEAR KID SIS:** Before I offer any, has it occurred to you that Austin may be even more insecure than your husband, and your sister is a wimp? It is not your "job" to teach her husband social behavior — that's what a loving wife does when her husband does something obnoxious. And Austin's behavior falls into that category.

Perhaps, if you point this out to Grady, it will help him feel less insecure around his windbag of a brother-in-law.

**DEAR ABBY:** What do you think of marriages where the husband and wife merely tolerate each other and have little emotional connection? In our situation, my wife seems to accept that our marriage "just is," but I feel that marriage should offer more.

**Do we just stick it out after 25 years of marriage? — LOVELESS IN GEORGIA**

**DEAR LOVELESS:** Marriages in which the spouses "merely tolerate each other with little emotional connection" are called marriages of convenience. I'm sad to say they are not uncommon. Some couples who have drifted apart have been able to reconnect through a program called Retrouvaille, which began in 1977 in Canada. Although it is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to all married couples regardless of their religion.

It consists of a weekend, plus a series of 12 presentations that take place over the following three months. The program is run by three married couples and a priest. The "team couples," all of whom have experienced disillusionment, pain and anger in their own marriages, share their personal struggles, reconciliation and healing.

Ask your wife to attend a Retrouvaille weekend with you. It might be the spark you need to get your relationship going again, and it has worked for many other couples. For information on programs in your area, call toll-free (800) 470-2230 or visit [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



