

# LIVING RELATIONSHIPS & FASHION

## ASK FIONA

Agony aunt and trained counsellor Fiona Caine offers her perspective on family dramas, emotional problems and dysfunctional relationships



**Q** My husband and I have two children, a son of four and a baby girl who is just a year old. Before our daughter was born our son was always well behaved, but since then he has turned into a real demon. He often directs his aggression towards his little sister and after one recent incident I scared myself by pulling him off her by his hair and then smacking him very hard. I feel awful but my husband can't understand why it's a problem and says he's just being a little boy.

**A** Bringing up young children is exhausting and stressful and we all lose our cool once in a while. Trying to do the job with an unsympathetic husband to deal with can only make matters worse so don't blame yourself.

Your little boy has obviously reacted badly to having to share his parents with his baby sister and probably can't understand why he now has to share your time and affection. Find ways in which both you and your husband give him time on his own with you. Make sure he knows he is loved and wanted – smacking him probably just reinforces his fear of rejection and probably won't do any good.

Contact Parentline on 0808 800 2222 any time, day or night if you feel you need help to cope with your feelings.

■ If you have a relationship, sexual, marriage or family problem, contact Fiona at [help@askfiona.net](mailto:help@askfiona.net).

All letters are treated in confidence. Fiona cannot enter into personal correspondence.

SALLY CHURCHWARD ASKS, "CAN A £95 PAIR OF JEANS GIVE YOU THE PERFECT BUM?"

# PURE JEAN-IUS

**JEANS** – they're a staple of everyone's wardrobe and what I wear about 90 per cent of the time when I'm not at work.

Given that they're like a blue second skin to me, the idea of some magical jeans that would lift, flatten, slim and generally flatter the lower half of my body was very appealing.

ing, the upper thigh – which lifts the bottom, lifts and holds in the stomach and gives a flattering contour to the hips.

I was a bit nervous about putting them on. Partly because, in my experience, control clothing ranges between slightly uncomfortable and so restrictive I feel nauseous and partly because they retail at £95 and I was worried I'd instantly throw toothpaste or ketchup down them.

Only time will tell if I manage to ruin the jeans with an unfortunate spillage incident but these were incredibly comfortable.

Tight fitting jeans, particularly when new, can be stiff but these were as comfy as my favourite old jogging bottoms.

They also fitted fantastically. Trying

to buy a new pair of jeans can be depressing. Without the years of stretching that have got your old pair nice and loose, attempting to slip into a new pair of the same size can result in disturbing muffin tops and thighs that look like sausages.

But not these jeans. They were flatteringly snug but not too tight and while the promo material focuses on the positive effect on your rear, I was

particularly pleased with the gentle flattening effect on my tummy.

I spent the weekend road-testing the jeans at a friend's birthday drinks and dinner with my boyfriend and they were much admired.

I wouldn't normally spend the best part of £100 on a pair of jeans but given how much I wear them and how great these look and feel, it would be money well spent.



SALLY IN HER OLD JEANS

SALLY IN THE WIZARD JEANS

So I jumped at the chance to road test a pair of Wizard Jeans – after all, if they're good enough for TV newsreader and presenter Fiona Bruce, who was named the Wizard Jeans Rear of the Year 2010, they're good enough for me.

According to the blurb, the jeans have the special technology bonded into the denim fabric which goes from the waist down to, and includ-

## READER OFFER

Girls, after all the effort you've made on Christmas morning does the man in your life turn up looking not quite up to scratch? Why not buy him a pair of straight leg, classic-cut jeans with hidden nip/tuck technology for Christmas? And if you buy a pair for him between December 7 and 20, 2010, and get a fabulously stylish blue stonewashed pair for yourself, absolutely free.

Men Indigo Jeans – (Code MWT2BL), £95, Size 30-42

Women Stonewashed Jeans – (Code WT1BLE), £65, size 8-20.

To take advantage of this offer visit [wizardjeans.com](http://wizardjeans.com), put one each of of the jeans above into your shopping cart and enter the special discount code MAMBO.



BBC newsreader Fiona Bruce was the female winner of Wizard Jeans Rear of the Year. Picture: David Wimsett

## PARENTING

Sian Davies is mum to Ben, 2, and new-born Katie.

### All I want for Christmas is...

IS FATHER Christmas my new best friend or what? I am taking maximum advantage of the big man in red and his power to bring joy to the good children of the world and misery to those who are not.

The threat of Ben being left empty-handed is being used indiscriminately by his mum as its power seems to know no bounds.

I thought it might wear off after a while but Ben is convinced I have a hot line to Mr S Claus.

He has certainly got the hang of Christmas this year, the television has become a foe of late as it continues to offer all manner of goodies under the sun.

After almost every advert I can guarantee that Ben will announce "I want that for Christmas".

Even the obvious girl toys, like the life-sized Shetland pony complete

with stable door, prompted "I want the boy one of those".

Katie, by comparison, has no such high demands being a tender seven weeks old. There really isn't much that she could want as her basic needs are all being met. Short of wrapping up a tub of Sudocrem there isn't much that would brighten her day.

Having said that the smiles are coming thick and fast, which makes it all a bit more worthwhile. However, her insistence to pursue a nocturnal way of life is beginning to grate a little. I wouldn't mind if she was showing at least a small sign of improvement but apart from the odd night of a good four-hour stretch she is not settling into a routine. We will press on nonetheless in the hope that tonight will be the night.



SIMON CARR

SINGLE IN THE CITY

## Brushing off the cold shoulder

THE first snowflake that hits the grounds affects children and adults differently.

To children it means the day off school, snowball fights and building snowmen.

For adults it equates to long, stressful journeys, being cold and soaring heating costs.

To teachers it means a day off work.

I was dwelling on the point as I stood shivering at a bus stop in Bitterne last week but was compensated by the emergence of snow bunnies.

Women who look even more adorable than usual in cute little hats, gloves and scarves.

One of the said bunnies, wearing sweet, pink earmuffs and looking like she had just stepped out of a salon, came over to me ask about the buses.

Just as I was about to reply I had seen none despite waiting more than an hour a nearby idiot piped up that he had seen at least five.

Admittedly he had arrived before me but I had noticed every time somebody new turned up the number of mythical vehicles he had seen but rejected had increased.

Now more than 30 people were in the queue after being confidently told the road would soon be gridlocked by the hundreds of buses that were sure to be waiting around the corner.

I begun to wonder why he had not got on any of these buses and was choosing to annoy people with weak jokes and lies about public transport.

Perhaps he was an unsuccessful comedian who realised the snow had given him an audience that couldn't escape.

I chatted to the hot girl in the earmuffs but gradually started to think I was hallucinating as every car in the distance now looked like a bus and then a dog walked past wearing people clothes.

Finally our bus arrived and I moved aside for her to be chivalrous only to watch an army of pensioners who had arrived after everyone else push in and start boarding.

Years of bus travel had obviously taught these cunning swines some tricks.

As we got on I tried to think of a way of restarting my conversation with the fittie, but just I was about to compliment her earmuffs the last remaining pensioner barged me from behind to try and get the only remaining seat.

I was now out of range and my chance was gone.

To make myself feel better I raced ahead and got the seat to make this old woman realise I did not tolerate this kind of behaviour.