This opening extract is exclusive to Love**reading**.
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Am I Alone in Thinking…?

Edited by Iain Hollingshead

VICIOUS VACUUMS

SIR – The most annoying thing in my life at present is the cord in my vacuum cleaner which suddenly winds itself back into the machine with no help. Am I alone with this problem?
I.G. Anderson
Merriott, Somerset

MY WIFE AND I

SIR – My wife has banned me from moaning about the weather in her hearing. Am I alone in facing such a draconian imposition?
Tim Butler
Baulking Green, Oxfordshire

SIR – Sir Alan Sugar maintains that making money is better than sex. He obviously has not slept with my wife.
Michael West
Eastleigh, Hampshire

SIR – I read with humour the advertisements on buses stating that there may not be a God. Obviously these people have not met my wife.
Roy Stainton
Poole, Dorset

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOTHER

SIR – Trying to buy a Christmas card for my mother I had great difficulty in finding one addressed to *Mother*. There were many to *Mum* or *Mummy*. I am now suffering the same problem in purchasing a birthday card and have been to 10 shops, all to no avail.
I feel it inappropriate for a sexagenarian son to send to his octogenarian mother a card addressed to *Mum* or *Mummy*. Am I the only person who feels this?
Bryce Mitchell
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire

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WHEN I 'M 73

SIR – I have finally come to the conclusion that my 73-year-old mother has become a born-again teenager.
She sleeps until all hours in the morning, never does any work and plays the television and radio far too loudly.
Her driving is atrocious (as is that of most of her friends), although she will never admit it or that she's ever in the wrong.
Her dress sense has stayed the same for so long it's actually come back into fashion.
Whenever I suggest something, she ignores it until one of her friends says exactly the same thing. Then it becomes a great idea.
Many of her friends drink far too much and they are nearly all on drugs (they would claim medical, not narcotic – but I reserve judgment on that).
All in all, I think she's just at that "difficult age".
Anon

BEWARE OF THE OWNER

SIR – I resent being told that, as a dog owner, I look like my pets. We have a brown Labrador and a Jack Russell. I do not resemble either of them. I look like an Alsatian.
Jeremy Woolcock
Great Bardfield, Essex

SIR – Why do people being interviewed always say "you know" in answer to a question? If we did indeed know, then we wouldn't be wasting our time listening to them. Gone, it would seem, are the good old days of the simple "er".
Russ King
London N11

SIR – When the dust finally settles on the merger of Halifax Bank of Scotland and Lloyds, I expect a suitable name for the newly created banking giant will have to be chosen.
Might I suggest: Bank of Scotland/ Lloyds/ Halifax. For trading purposes, this could be conveniently abbreviated to: BoLloX
James L. Shearer
Edinburgh

SIR – If the fact that J.K. Rowling is scared of spiders is news, I thought you might like to know that one of my ducks is sick and I think I'm running out of milk.
Kevin Mann
Goodwood, West Sussex

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PLEASE CENSOR MY HUSBAND

SIR – One of your correspondents derides David Cameron for engaging Carol Vorderman to investigate mathematics education policy. Personally, I would love to do some multiplication with Miss Vorderman.
Robert Warner
Aston, Oxfordshire

SIR – Since you reported the impending opening of a lap dancing club here in Henley-on-Thames I have organised new glasses and a blood pressure check with my doctor. I can't wait.
Robert Warner
Aston, Oxfordshire

SIR – Please stop publishing letters from my husband, Robert: after three in less than a fortnight, he is insufferable and has now taken to reading the Letters page online at 2 a.m. in order to get his oar in first.
Enough is enough, especially as there are still lawns to mow, leaves to sweep and logs to split.
Anne Warner Aston, Oxfordshire

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