



QUOTH THE MAVEN

BY BEVERLY KING POLLOCK

Uncertain Feeling

For weeks I've had the feeling I've been neglecting something. First I was busy with my son and the Bar Mitzvah; then it was Thanksgiving with my big son home from school and job. And now it's planning for my older daughter and her forthcoming wedding.

But through it all there has been this sort of uneasiness. A fear I have forgotten or overlooked something vital.

I was meditating about the problem that was not quite a problem when my younger daughter came into view. "Mom," she said, "I want to ask you a favor. Can you...?"

"I'm busy right now," I said. "Can't we do it later? You know I have so much on my mind right now."

Then I looked at this middle child, the one with the eyes and the smile and the tolerant shrug of the shoulders and suddenly I knew what I had neglected. My daughter! For days I hadn't asked her about school or checked her room or watched her eat her vegetables. I hadn't even nagged her about being on the phone.

And now she was nearing the magic age of 16 and poised and pretty and I hadn't even thought about a gift or party for her. So I did the next best thing. I felt guilty.

The child psychology book warned about people like me. Suppose now my daughter didn't feel loved? I had visions of ruining her life. If she felt rejected by me, would

"Straw Dogs"

When you don't look at your watch all the way through a movie, that's a great flick. This week I was invited by Sam Bagwell of the Parkway Theatre to see Dustin Hoffman's newest, "Straw Dogs".

Dustin Hoffman is an American intellectual, who just married Susan George, a fast moving English beauty, living in a small English town. During their adjustment period, she accuses him of being a coward and running away from life and he accuses her of living like she is 14 years old. They argue a little but love is prevalent all the way through their spats. He has a formula on a blackboard and she changes a + sign to a - sign thinking she is so cute. He passes the

Movie Time

BY MIKE TELL

blackboard moments later and wonders how he could be so stupid and immediately changes the - to a + and walks away muttering. At this point you are just about to look at your watch when the scene changes to a pub in the small English town. Fighting and low class people are going through their day.

Without telling you the entire plot of the movie, because I definitely recommend you see this one, the lower class element invades the privacy of the bedroom of the newlyweds. Hoffman's car strikes a runaway rapist and the star's quaint little home becomes a circus of violence not to be believed

she be able to find herself in society and be accepted as a friend by her peers?

I found myself gasping for breath even before I ran to catch up with her. If I could ask her to forgive me, let her know I really meant well...

"Dear," I said, "I want to apologize for giving you a deep-rooted complex..."

And my daughter said, "Huh?" So I tried to explain that I had made her insecure, but I would make it up to her, that I would buy her presents, lots, and...

My daughter said, "The only present I'd like is for you to take me to the airport."

"You don't want to run away," I pleaded.

"Only to L.A.," she said. "Remember those kids I got to be such good friends with at camp last summer? For my birthday they want to buy me a round trip ticket to come and see them next weekend."

My mouth opened but I must not have said anything because my daughter continued, "Judy's mother wrote she wants me to stay with them. Is it okay for me to go?"

"What dear friends!" I said. And I felt elated and relieved. Obviously my four weeks of maltreatment hadn't warped my daughter's personality and appeal after all.

"Of course you can go," I said. My daughter smiled and put her arm around my shoulder. "Remember what you once quoth to me?" she said.

And I nodded. For I had quoth that children survive in spite of their parents.

on the screen. The photography is superb. When the rapist says, "I don't know my way home," and Hoffman says, "It's O.K. I don't either," you the viewer, knows you are seeing an exceptional movie.

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