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SNOWWHITE, THE DIVORCÉE

To serve Snowwhite (and raise her standard of living) the Prince becomes a shoddy businessman. He buys an apple orchard; sprays it with potent but suspect insecticides which enhance the appearance and beauty of the ordinary. However, he keeps a patch, unsprayed, for his own family consumption.

One day Snowwhite innocently eats one of the poisonous but goodlooking apples. She falls sick. Her husband confesses everything: business is dirty; morality is for religious freaks who don't make money out of edible goods, but only out of inedible, indelible badness. Noneheless, Snowwhite, disillusioned, leaves Mr. Prince for an alternative.

The alternative claims lovelovelove is the core of his life; workaholism is for the (commuter) birds. They eat health food together. Except, not long after her second marriage Snowwhite discovers her alternative is living off his grandfather who owns a clothes factory in South Africa. Cheap labor and all that. Snowwhite divorces her second husband and suffers from sexual frustration and insomnia. She takes up a career.

The question arises: is Snowwhite the witch/bitch now that she suffers from sexual frustration and insomnia! Will masturbation cure her blues? Will her career prevent her from questioning the awful meaning of life?

The moral of the story is: Prince Charming is an alien from outerspace (a one-night stand) who has no intention of living with a humdrum earthling (male or female).

Mary Melfi Montreal, Quebec

THE GIFT

Hesitant, bemused, my mother gave a gift. For your desk, she said, to keep the feeling live. The picture was dead, but the frame was very nice.

From afar, one difficult summer My difficult daughter sent a card. For your birthday, mom, the nicest picture I could find.

(Pink and green on white The colours of my mother's home.)

> Mother and daughter astride a white horse The foal runs beside High on the green tall grass expanse of broad and rolling hills Through pink poppies ride Wind-swept, wind-free ride.

I placed my daughter's picture within my mother's frame The mare is stepping out through pink and green mosaic Towards the open wooden grain Motion framed but breaking free

My mother and my daughter gave a gift to me.

Anne E. Tener Merrickville, Ontario