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# MOTHER?

By KAREN L. KOERBER

Debbie wandered around, straightening the vase centerpiece exactly in the middle of the coffee table for the third time. It was 4:45. David would be home soon. She sighed and plopped down on the plastic couch facing the antique alarm clock and watched the digits flip for exactly three minutes before falling asleep from boredom.

David got off the space shuttle in front of Quick-Serv Condo Heights, and took the space walk to #1524. The front door responded to his cheery "Honey, I'm home," with a slight beep and a sliding back of three security panels to reveal a manual door, a feature he was especially proud of. He stopped inside and checked the room scan, noting Debbie was in the back.

He stood over her and called to her gently. She woke slowly and looked at the clock first, then him.

"I guess I never realized you had so much to do," he said. "Poor tired dear." He kissed her on the forehead, then sat beside her on the couch.

She yawned.

"We could get a vacu-maid," he suggested. "We can afford it now."

"No!" She stood up and adjusted the centerpiece again. "I don't have enough to do."

"Debbie, I won't get into that argument again. None of the other technical supervisor's wives work, and we can't afford to lose face."

"David," she sat and took his hand. "Could we have a baby?"

He looked into her eyes and looked away.

*Karen L. Koerber is a senior biology major from Wilson.*

"If we can afford a vacu-maid," she started.

"It's not that easy."

"It would be so good for us. I'd have something to do all day, and think of the status."

"None of the other technical supervisor's have..."

"Let's start a trend. Wouldn't it help? The bosses would say, 'There's a man with responsibility.'"

"Let me think about it. It just might be a smart move."

Debbie was happy all through dinner. She hummed to herself and even did the dishes manually. She couldn't sit still and kept pacing in front of the news until David yelled at her.

"You read too slowly," she said. She stopped walking and picked up the thin wand. Pointing it at the screen that covered the entire rear wall, she pressed the button and the news flashed by. When she got to the ads she slowed down.

"Look," she said.



"If we can afford a vacu-maid," she said.

"Oh Honey," he said. "Well, all right. But you have to be responsible for it."

"I will!" She threw the wand down. "Can we go now?"

"Get your Warm-Field," he said. "It's



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