

For some unaccountable reason, Miss Madie had no wish to cross swords with Emma Lou therefore she made no protest to her recent outburst-demand that she pack her junk and get out because her services were no longer needed. She steadied her reeling body against the impact of the low blow, but her lips refused to "cuss the day" her assailant was born. Perhaps she refused out of respect for "Mister Ben" or she was out right fearful of the woman; nevertheless, she made no outcries.

Emma Lou closed the door behind the last of the neighbors the moment the crippled woman crossed the threshold. "That old soul should be home making up her own dying bed. With one foot in the grave, I don't see how she made it here to nose around."

Miss Madie, out of habit, dried her hands on her apron. This voluntary action seemed to have been the key to unlock the door of her penned-in-mobility; because, suddently she began darting about the room, starightening dollies, chairs, rugs, even the wobbly shade of the table lamp. She had been planning for weeks to replace the shade with a new one, but time and money were two commodities she was always fresh out of. She said, more to herself, really, than to the carvorting sister-in-law; "this old shade has seed its best days."

"Forget the lamp shade, this apartment, my daddy-everthing-just be on your merry way." Emma Lou blurted out.

Surprisingly enought, to Miss Madie, the knots in her tongue had disapperared and she was in instant business "once more 'n again." Angrily, she retorted; "I've seed enough of your behind for one day. Mah advice to you is plain 'n simple, go back to South Hill before it's a day 'n time too late to save the last part of you going ovah th' fence."

"What did you say?" Emma Lou stopped still for the first time in a long while, to make sure her ears weren't deceiving her.

"I don't chew my 'bacco but once 'n that go for th' number of times I spit."

Emma Lou sighed laborously-" I'm locking this joint up as soon as the undertaker comes for my daddy's body--my advice to you is plain 'n simple, get your stuff and get out!"

"You sound like-ah-fool, woman. Most of th' stuff, as you call it, in this 'part-ment is mine. I'll move when I can--and, for information, I ain't toting nothing away from to hear your head roar."

Emma Lou's pride suddenly shattered; she was no match for this contakerous old biddy; she said, lamely; "I'm going to have Curtis starighten you out, but good."

Miss Madie laughed; "Curtis comes before me like-ah-goad-vine running 'n stinking. Th' day my brother comes to me, to straighten me out for you, that's th' day he'll wish to God he had been born as tumble-turd."

"How do you sound?" Emma Lou gasped.

"You'll get th' message. There'll be more cleaning up mess than he bargained for."

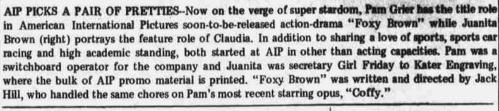
Emma Lou succussed her, "the undertaker is coming--we'll hash this matter out at a later date."

"Suits me, suit yourself, honey chile; but th' later th' better if you ask sookie."

Emma Lou gesticulating frantically with her hands, hissed; be quiet! I don't want Mr. Sudten to think we all are crazy."

Miss Madie walked into the kitchen and stood at the sink looking out of the window. She had a bone to pick with Emma Lou, and the sooner her daddy's corpse was out of the apartment, the sooner she could get on with the business of plucking an over stuffed chick.

Standing where she was, she could hear most of what was going on i ide the living room but she made it a point not to watch "Mister Ben's body being carried out on the stretchers. Plain stubborness held her fast to the side of the sink. Coot Sudten's bathos filled voice, seemingly, had wrung tears from the resolute





All that and more, according to Dr. Boris Levinson, noted

clinical psychologist and au-thor of "Pets and Human Development." He sums it

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eyes of the bereaved daughter, her mind remained fixed; "a decent burial is all I'm paying for, Mr. Sudten. Nothing showy." Then she boo-hooed.

"A puke of misery." Miss Madie muttered under her breath. Then she heard a familiar vocie and was tmeped to turn around to make sure her guest was correct. The rich, olily voice was smooth as silk-disturbingly sensous: "you have my deepest sympathy--I came as soon as I heard. How's Miss Madie. I'm sure she si deeply moved by Mister Ben's death. She was so devoted to him, I am sure she is profoundly hurt. She was very much attached to your dear father. Where is Miss Madie now? If hse is resting, I understand fully."

Emma Lou walked away slowly, weeping into the well of her hands.

Miss Madie sped from the sink to the doorway and called out to Jeffery Alexander Boykins; "Jeff Boykins! you old rascal, you are good for the sore eyes-'cept I don't have sore eyes."

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chological value to people coping in a society beset by fear, insecurity, distrust, frustration and anxiety.

Dr. Levinson's research relates people's need for pets with unfulfilled basic human needs. Let's look at some examples given, starting with the need for closeness and communion with nature.

Many of today's anxieties are due to people's alienation from nature in their day-to-day lives. A pet revives our sense of kinship with nature. Caring for a pet restores our sense of wellbeing and completion. And in a city apartment, having a pet is often one's only approach to nature. Some Other Examples

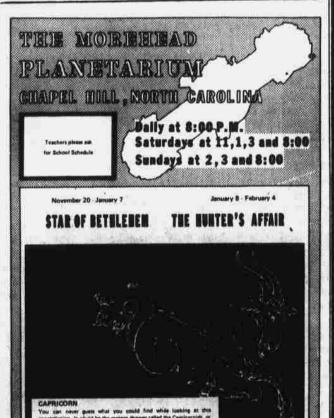
Other examples span our lifetime from childhood to old age. In large urban areas many people live alone, especially the elderly with few friends and whose world grows increasingly smaller. A pet means companionship, a rea-son to get out and make contact with other people. Dog walkers stop and talk with one another. For some, their pet is a lifeline to life and reality. Children derive many bene-

fits from pets. A dog or cat fills a child's need to fondle something soft and cuddly. A dog always gives unquestioning ection. It never criticizes or deserts its young friend, happily greets the homecoming each day regardless of the child's school grades or the outcome of games won or lost,

and is ready to play or just

that pets need people, too. Give yours a nourishing diet containing the necessary vitamins and minerals such as provides. Don't over-ALPO feed, and always have fresh water available. And regular health checkups by your veterinarian can prolong your pet's life many years. P.S. A free pamphlet on Dr. Levinson's report may be requested from Pet Food Institute, Dept. AL, 111 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601. Enclose a stamped self-addressed

#10 envelope.





troubles. The child's self-es-

A child learns responsibility from caring for a pet, and derives gratification from doing something for someone else. Children and grownups develop a sense of consideration for others through pets. A responsive animal won't tolerate abuse or neglect, so pets also teach that to be loved, you must give love.

Another lesson is in patience and self-control, learned when helping with training the pet. The child finds that shouting or hitting the dog doesn't work, but gentleness and understanding does. So, people need pets for many reasons. And remember