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# **BIRTHDAY - OPEN HOUSE**



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# The Power of Love

BY BREN CHISHOLM

didn't realize how powerful a hug staying home for the day but that was Land a kiss was until I learned a valu- clearly not an option. able lesson from my six-year-old daughter. I've always been extremely her on the bus with some distractive affectionate with my children but it talk but all day long, I was plagued with took only one small incident to make ideas on how I could make her feel betme realize the potency of love.

about nine, you can rest assured your again... I promise). little girl is still reasonably congenial. offer your once angelic child a saucer of her hurt feelings. milk.

cute turtleneck and matching pants.

"Natalie told me I wasn't pretty. I said had to prove to her I was pretty. So I'm daughter feel better. looking for something to make her see," she proclaimed grandly.

and explained to her that pretty comes to the little so-and-so. To no avail, she Halloween candies. donned the outfit she was sure would convince Natalie that she was nothing my head. This was just the beginning.

found her in her room, huddled in the before dinner, for heaven's sake. corner crying her eyes out.

pened. Obviously, she was facing a warms me right through to the core. delayed reaction- and didn't want the incident repeated.

I held her in my arms, dried her eyes, and asked her what I could do to make her feel better. She suggested

My husband and I managed to get ter. I knew she would eventually find In case you don't know, little girl someone to play with because little girls meanness begins at a very young age. notoriously change their minds as fre-This astounds me because frankly, you quently as Jennifer Lopez changes just don't believe anything but sweet- boyfriends. Not only that, my daughter ness could possibly radiate from their could charm the bees from the trees lovable little souls. From birth until (similar to J Lo, but I won't bring it up

Nonetheless, I spent my lunch It's not until later that the hormones hour almost obsessively going over in kick in and then your response is to my mind just what I could do to mend

You have to understand; my chil-It all started one morning last dren aren't in the least bit spoiled. They week when I caught my youngest get presents on their birthdays, daughter, Marina, frantically going Christmas and Easter but we're not a through her closet after I had put her family who go out and buy toys for any clothes out the night before - a perfectly other occasion. In other words, I was still of sound mind (and wallet!) to real-"What are you doing?" I asked. ize an expensive toy was not the answer. This therefore presented a chalthat wasn't very nice and she told me I lenge, as I dearly wanted to help my

In a last ditch effort; I purchased an inexpensive, fragrant bar of Kiwi-I did my best to hide my stunned scented soap. I thought it would be a horror and instead took a deep breath nice idea to present her with a private, unhurried bath - a fool-proof remedy in from inside and she had nothing to prove my opinion - with one of her leftover

That 'evening, I quickly rushed home, dropped my bags and told her short of stunning. I just sighed and shook what we were going to do. Of course she was delighted when she took one The next morning as my husband whiff of her very own bath bar. and I we were getting the children Naturally, she couldn't believe her ready to take the bus to school, I could- good fortune in having a treat popped n't find Marina. I ran upstairs and in her mouth while she bathed and

I am realistic enough to know I When I could get her to stop crying won't always be able to solve all my long enough to explain to me, I found children's woes with a bath and a treat. out a few little girls in her class deemed Of course, there will be challenges and her unsuitable the day before and yes, even a few broken hearts along the decided not to play with her during way for both my children and I may be recess. I was a little surprised because miles and miles away and unable to do she hadn't brought it up the night much of anything except sympathize. before but I suppose readying herself But right now, the very idea that I can for school reminded her what had hap- take away just a little bit of sadness

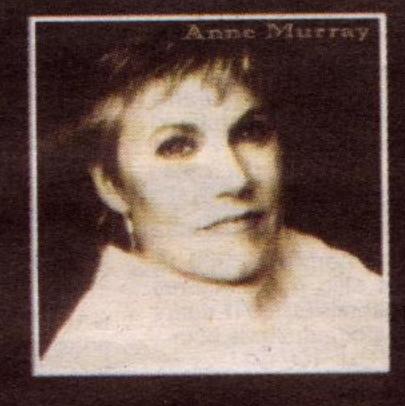
> When I asked her if she was feeling better, she said, "You know what, mommy? The best part of my day is always hugs and kisses from you!"

Me too, baby, me too.

# prime time radio All Time Favourites

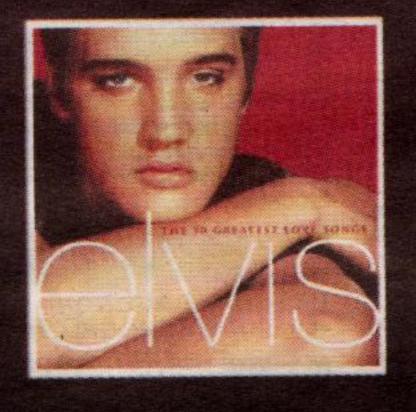


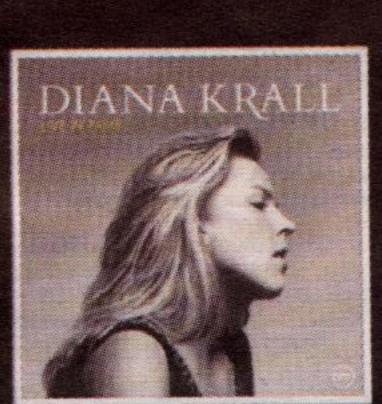












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