Intrigue, romance adventure, mix to make McLachlan's 'The Seventh Hexagram' compulsively readable

by Shirley Whittington follow what's hap-liberated capitalist. Yet, pening," complains a when part of her personal McLachlan's first novel, retreats into her family.

At times the reader of this very well written her off." novel of intrigue and adventure may feel telligence officer, on the similarly baffled, side of the exploiters, an although he'll keep obese gossip-gatherer book's compulsively proclivities. readable.

The first chapter, which legendary figure. Half describes a grisly auto Chinese, half English, he accident sets the stage for participated in the long the forthcoming mystery. march, and loves to tell

legends of his days with It's a grabber. The threads are Mao. Yet, he's out of his teasingly tangled. Not till time, and his conthe final pages do we find siderable power, wealth out why Joe Stewart and intelligence drove his car off the road, ultimately are of no avail was almost killed, and in the realization of his why his battered body dream - to see Hong Kong liberated by the Comwas found naked.

Set in Hong Kong munists. rebellions, a cast of un- intrigues and passionate forgettable characters relationships, all set peoples the book.

Joe is the straight man, backdrop with authority idealistic, eager for social McLachlan lived and change, but terribly worked in Hong Kong for Western, and at bottom ten years, and is obtotally uncomprehending viously writing from a of the Chinese fact.

"You don't belong here, servation. (He is now a Joe," says his Chinese professor of comparitive love, Mai, "you just want literature at Trent

to possess it.' Mai is not only

There are murders and

against the Hong Kong

close personal ob-

American detective beautiful, she's a bright from a quotation from I young entrepreneur, a Ching: The Book of Changes. The army is the Seventh Hexagram. Ian world collapses, she "When danger threatens. "An aunt, cousins, closed in around her, shutting ends, he goes back to his Donald Winnis an in-

gifted writer. Even Mordecai Richler agrees. He calls the book "the fortably on the desk. pressing forward. The with strange sexual brilliant debut of an Dr. Jordan King is a

University.)

The book's title comes

quickly, but cryptically, that could very well be characteristic of the Hong

Herstory, a Canadian every peasant becomes a Women's Calendar has Montgomery, and soldier; when the war appeared from Hurtig Adelaide Hoodless, the publishers. It's about as founder of the Women's big as a slender paper- Institute. There are also well in a purse, or with its on the Victorian Order of coil binding, sit com- Nurses, quilting bees, and

In addition to the calendar itself, Herstory reference long after the

If events seem to move is a mine of information calendar's pages are tists?" about Canadian women. living and dead. Abbie Hoffman, Flora Mac- beligerently feminist as filling that gap. It's a

King political sub- donald, Margaret Atwood its earlier editions, and and Judy LaMarsh are the theme, women in profiled along with L.M. back and would carry brief informative essays article about Mary

the CGIT. It's the sort of book that artists, but rather why is enormously talented generously squared will be useful as a there so little known

collective action, is Canadian women to handled in a straight Canada and to the world. forward way, with little strident editorialising The final line in an

Wrinch reads "The question is not why are there no great women about great women ar-

Herstory - long may it Herstory '77 is not as be published - is rapidly good concise record of the contributions made by

> The Seventh Hexagram by Ian McLachlan: MacMillan pub. 277 p.p.

Herstory 1977. A Canadian Women's Calendar Hurtig pub; 121



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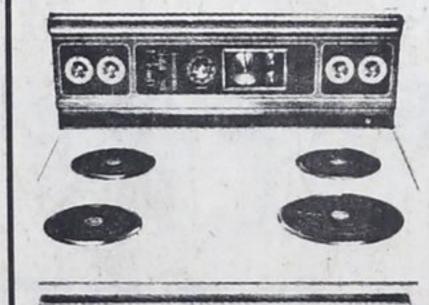
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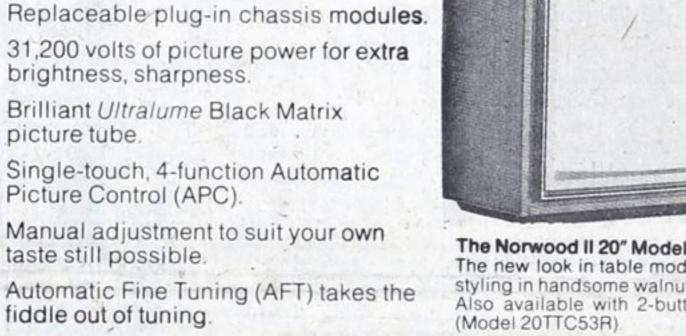
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