



Aurora OPP Staff Sergeant Brad Dunbar (right) and PC Gus Menna visited the Markham Stouffville Hospital pediatrics ward Tuesday bearing gifts: a TV, VCR, 12 Disney tapes, and \$1,900, proceeds from the detachment's yearly charity golf tournament held last June. Ton-sillectomy patient Brandon Doolittle, 5, enjoys '101 Dalmatians'.

Photo by STOERD WITTEVEEN

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 UTEHOSTEE FLOAT OAST
 RONT TONIC TOWABUNDLE
 ROOPS SHEAF SIMON EYE
 PAPA GRIT NICKERED
 OTOEBETNENGRAND
 CAPSULAR BENE QENO
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Shattering Glass is every woman's story

Women will identify themselves in this hard-to-put-down novel

LISA CARTWRIGHT
Features

I was upset when *Shattering Glass*, the first novel from Canadian poet Nancy Gay Rotstein, was finished.

I couldn't believe the author of three books of poetry would leave me hanging without knowing the fate of her three, very believable characters.

As I put down the book, I hoped that if she was planning a sequel, it wouldn't take as long in the making as the first one.

Rotstein thought it would take her six months to write a novel about three women and their attempts at balancing their home life with their working life. The project ended up taking seven years to complete as the author extensively researched every street she mentioned, every city she talked about and every situation she described.

Shattering Glass tells the life stories of three different women: Judy who goes back to law school after her husband tricks her into taking an unfair divorce settlement that leaves her living in poverty; Dede, a housewife who is bringing up two boys while dealing with a

workaholic husband and Barbara, a closet writer who breaks into the big time, despite her abusive husband's anger.

"*Shattering Glass* is every woman's story today who is working and having a family," said Rotstein.

"It's about finding a successful balance between a career and family."

Can't write a novel without a reason

Rotstein said there needs to be a reason for a novel to be written. *Shattering Glass* was written to help women identify themselves so they can find the balance and stop the cycle of guilt.

Guilt that the author understands.

Like Judy, Rotstein returned to law school when her three children were growing up.

She also juggled the commitments of her family with those of the many boards she sat on.

And each experience in her life was used to make the characters in *Shattering Glass* seem real.

While not always in complete agreement of the choices Judy, Barbara and Dede made, you can understand why each did it. The characters are so

believable that you could feel their pain when something horrible happened and feel a sense of accomplishment when they succeeded.

On one level, (the book) is a page turner, on the other level, the (characters) are dealing with things we all encounter. We can recognize ourselves (within each character).

Rotstein said both the charac-

ters and the situations in the novel had to be unmistakably realistic or people wouldn't be able to see themselves or understand the pattern of guilt that working mothers face.

Rotstein was recently at Chapters in Markham.

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