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Solitary confinement a welcome change

Home Alone IV

With Mr. Wallethead in England and Clare away for the weekend, I had the old homestead completely to myself for a couple of days. Well, not completely — Poc and Spasm were in residence — but they're pretty low maintenance and will fall asleep to the music or movie of my choice with nary a complaint.

The pleasant novelty of my solitary state was somewhat tempered Friday morning when I reached for the cordless phone on my desk, only to find that it had mysteriously vanished. The chief suspect, my daughter, is prone to taking the phone with her wherever she goes, including into the dreaded no-fly zone which is her room.

Before venturing therein, I tried the pager/finder button on the base of the phone. Unfortunately, the ringer has only two settings — too loud or too soft — and I prefer the latter, since the more strident version can send one's blood pressure off the Richter scale when it rings at an untimely moment.

The button produced no results, so I graduated to calling my number on Mr. Wallethead's line. After about 10 minutes wandering aimlessly around, I heard a pathetic little warble in



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

response. Several more minutes passed before I finally unearthed the source, cowering furtively down the side of an armchair in the TV room.

As I settled down to churn out another day's worth of deathless prose, Spasm came roaring upstairs and deposited his latest trophy at my feet. Meowing loudly, he was clearly bent on initiating a game of fetch, a pastime to which he has become severely addicted of late.

In this instance, he had liberated from its box a freshly-minted Q-tip, now somewhat soggy at one end. When it comes to games, Spasm is as tenacious as a 2-year-old whose mission in life is to ask "Why?" from the moment he wakes up until he falls, exhausted (but not as exhausted as his parent), into bed.

Hide one well-chewed "gift" and our dense but determined moggy can be relied upon to produce an eclectic selection of alternatives, from rolled-up foil balls to a motley collection of "found" items, the origin of which are better left uninvestigated. Last week, he came trotting up to me bearing the laminated prototype of Mr. Wallethead's new business card, which he had discovered on the desk.

After a hectic day of underarm bowling, interspersed with mining the diminishing intellect for pithy phrases, your correspondent was eagerly awaiting the opportunity to veg out in front of a selection of movies culled from the archives of the local video emporium.

One of the pleasures of being alone is not having to say you're sorry for renting movies which false memory syndrome filed under "classics," but which turn out to be embarrassingly awful 25 years later.

And being on your own after two decades of motherhood makes you empathize with the wise words of Phyllis Diller. "Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shovelling the walk before it stops snowing."

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CORRECTION NOTICE

We wish to draw your attention to an error in our 1998 catalogue.

Page 202 - Item 6: Fisher-Price Safe Embrace, 46-6067
Copy reads: 30 to 60 lbs.
Should read: 40 to 60 lbs.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience we may have caused you.

Circle AnnCat-98-All Zones

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