

# All my children

By GLEN OZONWOOD

For a long time, she's figured she could treat Dan any way she liked. After all, she seemed to have what he wanted (yeah, but a guy shouldn't have to go through so much to make it available). She's got it (even though she's getting heavier since she first entered the scene), but Dan's decided it's not worth the price he's paying. It's understandable that he should ditch Brooke (she's no good) but it's not clear why that means he should fall for Devon, she's so sophomoric (sorry about that 2nd year students. No other word conveyed the meaning). But that's exactly what he's doing.

See, Devon and Dan made a date to go to the holiday ball at school. Dan rented a tuxedo (in six years at the U, I never saw anyone get dressed up for a school dance). And then, Brooke entered the scene. She found out about Danny and Devon's plans and dropped by Devon's to say how-jado. By the time she left, she had Devon convinced Danny just asked her out to have someone to sleep with (surely one could do better than that, even in Pine Valley).

After Brooke left, Devon called Dan and broke the date (and the guy had already rented a tux). Although it took most of an episode (and was boring as hell), the two finally went together. In the meantime, Brooke had talked Tom Cudahy into going with her and when they showed up, Devon

asked Danny to take her home.

But, Devon hasn't concerned the problems in her family. Her mother's had to deal with a few too.

One would assume that Ellen would be happy. Her daughter gave her back the control over her life (a letter from Devon's dad saying he's remarried showed Devon what a fool she'd been to blame her mother for the divorce) and

her love affair with Mark was ready to take off when he got back from skiing. But no one can be happy in Pine Valley and Ellen's turn came when Claudette dropped by the shop.

It was unintentional, but while Claudette was picking things out around the shop, she started making snippy cracks about her mother's marriages to young men. Talking about face-lifts and large

amounts of make-up, Claudette dismissed her mother's actions as a clutching at a lost youth.

The whole experience left Ellen taken aback and when Mark returned from his ski trip, it wasn't the joyous reunion he was expecting. Whether the age difference is enough to cause Ellen to break off her relationship with Mark isn't clear. At least it's providing something to write about.



C'mon now. The holidays are over, but it seems like some good cheer would still be hanging around. Not in Pine Valley, though. Around every corner there's somebody bummed out. Take Erica Kane, please (sorry Henny). Hey, no. The past week has really been a drag for Erica.

Erica's been put out since Christmas because Nick gave her a string of pearls instead of an engagement ring. Besides the fact Nick's made it clear that he's not interested in marriage, after two tries it seems Erica would know matrimony isn't for her. But she hasn't learned that lesson and wants Nick at the altar in the worst way. Maybe it's just because she's not used to being turned down. Beautiful women have a way of getting most of what they want.

Anyway, Erica's plans to trap Nick haven't worked, but she's giving it one more try. She and Nick have a dinner date Tuesday, but when Nick showed up all there was a vague note saying how much Erica loved him. After Mona arrived (Nick called her), the two found a suitcase gone. It isn't clear what Erica's up to, but it's sure to cause somebody grief. It seems that's Erica's mission.

And, Erica's not the only one learning that sometimes it takes more than just being beautiful. Brooke English is getting a few lessons too.

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