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BOOK FARE

BANAL 'GLASS' BREAKS NO NEW GROUND

Nancy McAllister, Of The Dispatch Staff

Nancy-Gay Rotstein's *Shattering Glass*, another guilt-infested story about successful women, would make a good TV miniseries.

The book focuses on the lives of three women: Judy, Dede and Barbara.

When Judy's husband dumps her for a younger woman, his attorneys, determined to protect their client's considerable assets, dupe her in the divorce settlement.

Eventually Judy goes to law school and becomes an international finance expert.

Because she concentrates so much on her career, her son Shane's soul languishes, and he becomes involved in drugs and crime. Judy does what she can to save him but realizes she has failed.

Dede, the perfect political wife, does what she can to help her ambitious husband in his career. Her parents happen to be rich, allowing her to afford any extravagance.

When she realizes her husband's long absences from home are affecting her sons' confidence, she hires a student as a male role model. But after the student takes the boys for a ski weekend and her suspicions are aroused, she fires him. Has the person she hired to be a good influence on her sons molested them?

Dede also worries about her oldest son, Adam, who seems to recognize his father's blatant rejection of the family. When Adam's father cancels a planned family vacation, the crisis deepens.

Barbara, the wife of a lawyer who wants to become a partner in his firm, spends a great deal of time playing hostess to her husband's colleagues, diminishing her dream of becoming a writer. As she gains ground in her own career by taking classes with a well-known writing professor, her husband experiences fits of rage. Her daughter suffers when Barbara lies to her about the reality of the ensuing violence. Barbara stays in the marriage because she is financially dependent on her husband.

Shattering Glass culminates with the three women meeting at a luxurious Italian spa. A blurred fax arrives bearing bad news for one of the women.

Each woman, in turn, examines her relationship with her offspring and finds herself lacking as a mother.

In Shattering Glass, the men are all horrid, the women are all insufficient mothers, and the story line is nothing more than a familiar cliché about successful women.

Though skillfully written, this tedious book is filled with age-old sexism about women and their place in the world.