

Booking it

Do you ever feel trapped in a world where values and standards seem strange and confusing? For Thelma Beldwin, the fourteen-year-old heroine of the novel *Crazy Eights*, by Barbara Dana (Harper and Row; \$7.95), life is almost too complicated and chaotic to deal with.

Thelma, intelligent, perceptive, and hostile, seriously doubts that her future in a small New Jersey town holds much promise. She's afraid of becoming just like her older sister, who has adopted the shallow standards of suburban life, and she dislikes her domineering mother and her vague, quiet father. Only Jimmy, the family dog, seems to merit her love ("Sometimes I think he's a person with a dog costume on," she muses).

Eventually, Thelma's hostility toward her family and the world builds up until she's filled with rage. On the eve of her sister's marriage, Thelma sets fire to the building where the wedding is to take place. As a result, she's sent away to a reform school, where with the help of teachers and psychiatrists, she begins to discover and deal with the causes of her



problems. When Thelma's roommate needs help, Thelma comes to her aid.

Although the book deals with some weighty subjects, it's not without humor—Thelma's story is sad, funny, and realistic. Struggling through adolescence can be painful, as Thelma discovers, but it's also a time for learning, growing, and for enjoying life.

—Laura Goldman, Torrance, Calif.

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Getting Married Again

by Marjabelle Young Stewart
St. Martin's Press (\$10.95)

May the bride-to-be-again have her children stand up for her during the ceremony? Should she invite her former in-laws?

Yes and no, advises Stewart in this etiquette guide for the '80s. The key word throughout is "appropriate;" a thorough reading should insure a wedding free of any awkward moments.

Every step leading to the second walk down the aisle, from planning the wedding to setting up housekeeping, is explicitly explained. Included are illustrations of appropriate wedding dresses (preferably off-white) and headpieces (a long veil is taboo this time), and menu suggestions for a tasteful wedding dinner that as Stewart says, "even Great Aunt Minnie would approve of."

— Laura Goldman

The Hand Book

Elizabeth Brenner
Celestial Arts (\$6.95)

Look at your hands. Are your index fingers longer than your ring fingers? If so, your ego could stand some deflating. On the other hand, if your ring finger is longer than your index finger, you may have a psychological disorder.

The *Hand Book* (use a bookstand, if possible, so you can read your palms as well as the book) is a lively, informative guide to two of the most vital and revealing parts of the body. Elizabeth Brenner, a South Bay resident and professional palmist, explains the significance of the palm's various lines and mounds, and she discusses what different hand and finger shapes indicate about the personality.

Also included are step-by-step instructions to healing hand-massage and effective palm reading. There are many diagrams and even a few celebrity palm prints—without a trip to Mann's Chinese Theater, you can compare your hand size and life, head, and heart lines with the stars'.

— Laura Goldman