



**Sheila
Rosen
Seitzman**

Rebecca's secret mayonnaise recipe

I have a relative I shall call Steven. He was married to a woman I'll name Rebecca.

I have always been intrigued about the secret in the marriage of these two people. It had to do with mayonnaise.

Steven would not eat mayonnaise, and he claimed the taste of it made him sick to his stomach. Whenever a salad or sandwich called for mayonnaise, Rebecca would disappear into the kitchen and put together her secret ingredients for a substitute dressing that Steven always praised.

MANY YEARS AGO this couple was visiting my parents with their infant son. The menu for lunch included tuna salad.

Rebecca came into the kitchen and explained to my mother that Steve had told her when they were married he couldn't stand the taste of mayonnaise and so she had devised a more palatable spread.

With a wink of her eye, Rebecca went over to the same jar my mother had been doling into the salad, took a clean spoon and put

some in a separate dish.

"Just bring him some tuna salad without dressing and I'll serve him his special mayonnaise," she said smiling.

Rebecca and Steven lived in a different state and we saw them every few years. My mother always admired Rebecca, who was petite and as pleasant as she was pretty.

Steve was a strong-willed, domineering person who often had aroused the wrath of others, but he adored his tiny wife, and their love for each other was apparent.

WHEN I WAS a young girl, my mother told me the story of Rebecca, Steve and the mayonnaise. The actual incident had happened before I was born.

She told it to me in confidence and I shared the secret with childish glee. Everytime I saw these relatives, I thought I knew that she had fooled him.

When their older son was married and their

second son entered college, Rebecca died. Steven was despondent at the time but not long afterward married a widow whom both he and Rebecca had known.

That marriage did not work out, and they were divorced. Later he married a younger woman with a child. That marriage also was dissolved.

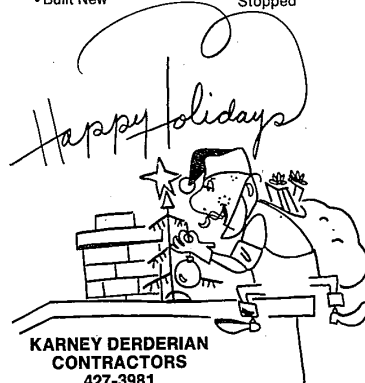
I wonder now if Steve's other wives ever served him a special dressing or if Rebecca died with her secret recipe, which was just part of her unique way of caring for her husband.

Sheila Rosen Seitzman, a resident of Orchard Lake, was born and raised in New York City. She is a speech pathologist and has worked in public schools, hospitals and rehabilitation clinics and has had a private practice. She is the mother of three daughters and is married to a patent attorney.

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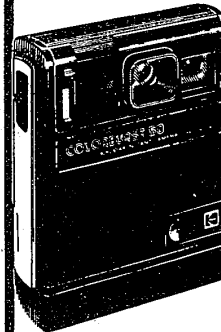
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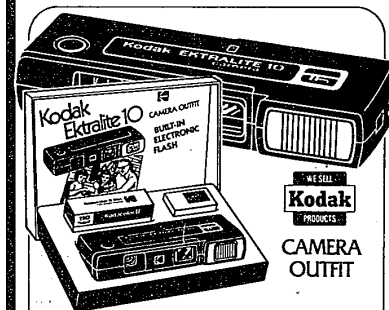
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