

# Desperate Housewives

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## Desperate Format by Mary Alice Young



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# Welcome to Wisteria Lane.

It's a nice place to live...  
and a fascinating place to die.



My name is Mary Alice Young.

An odd thing happens after we've crossed over. Our senses vanish. Taste, touch, smell, and sound become a distant memory. But our sight, ah, our sight expands. And we can look back on the world we've left behind and see everything so clearly. Not only what's on the surface, but what lies beneath.

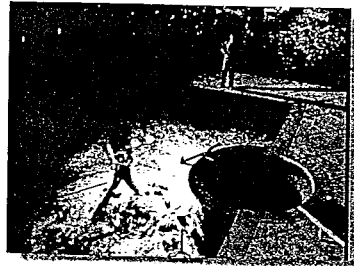


My newfound gift has given me insight into the lives of my four best friends. Like all of you, each of them is desperately searching for happiness. But, as we've seen, my friends don't always make the best choices.

Over the next few years, I will share with you the stories of these four unique women. We'll watch them grow and evolve as they learn to confront their problems. In the pages that follow, I'll describe their courage, their humor, their heartaches and their triumphs.

Not to mention all the secrets...

Such as who wrote that note?  
What was buried underneath my pool?  
And the question I know everyone is asking...



'Mary Alice, what did you do?'

*(Marc Cherry also wants me to make sure to remind you each episode will have self-contained stories that are all thematically linked. This will make it easier for you to syndicate.)*



# My Friends

## Susan

My neighbor across the street, Susan Mayer (Teri Hatcher), has always been my favorite.



She's the divorced mom trying desperately to find love the second time around.

The only thing standing between her and eligible bachelor, Mike Delfino (Jamie Denton)...



The neighborhood slut, Edie Britt.  
(Nicolette Sheridan)



The first few episodes will see Susan and Edie continuing their pursuit of Mike. He will gently rebuff all their advances and Susan will finally realize Mike is still in love with his dead wife. (He's also focused on the real reason he moved to Wisteria Lane. But Susan won't learn about that until later.)

We'll then begin an arc where Susan tries being 'just friends' with Mike. (In the hopes that when he's ready to date, she'll be right there.) Poor Susan. As their friendship grows, she becomes increasingly frustrated that Mike is so comfortable with a platonic relationship. This comes to a head at a neighborhood party, where Susan finally confesses to Mike she can't be 'just friends' anymore. She's in love with him. Embarrassed, Susan runs out of the party leaving a stunned Mike in her wake. Later that night, Mike will show up at her door and tell Susan he doesn't want to be friends anymore either. This will be the first moment they kiss.

The kiss kicks off a story arc where Mike and Susan begin a relationship. We'll watch as two people in their late 30's try to date for the first time in years, and realize they're horribly out of practice.



In the middle of all this, Mrs. Huber discovers that Susan was the one who started the fire at Edie Britt's. Short on cash, she starts to blackmail the guilt-ridden Susan for a large sum of money. Then, much to Susan's surprise, Mrs. Huber disappears. (Keep reading for more details.)

Just as Susan and Mike start to achieve some real intimacy, she comes across some mysterious papers in Mike's possession, indicating he has a hidden agenda for moving to Wisteria Lane. When confronted, Mike refuses to tell Susan the truth about his motives. His inability to trust Susan leads to their break-up. She will use her newfound knowledge about Mike as she continues to investigate the mystery surrounding my death.

The final episode of the season, Susan discovers the truth.



I have revealed all these secrets in a private letter to my friend, Steve McPherson. It is up to him to share them with you.



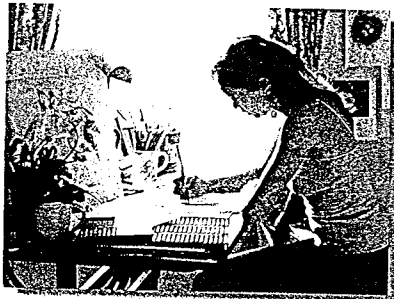
## *Examples of Possible Susan Stories*

1. Mike invites Susan to a casual, friendly dinner. Susan is thrilled until Edie Britt shows up. A tense evening ensues. When Mike goes to get dessert, an angry Susan asks Edie to 'step outside'. Just as she opens the door, Mike's dog runs out. Edie happily tells Mike that Susan let his beloved pet out. The three go out searching for the dog. Tensions increase, and Edie's plan to ruin Susan backfires when Edie and Mike get into an argument and Mike orders her to go back home. Finally alone, Mike confesses to Susan that the reason the dog means so much to him is because it belonged to his late wife. Susan finally realizes that Mike's not ready to 'date' anybody. He's still in love with his dead wife.

2. Susan accidentally finds Mike's dead wife's journal. Gabrielle, Bree and Lynette convince Susan to read the journal to gain insight into what his likes and dislikes are. Susan, however, learns that his wife's feelings about her marriage were far different than the idealized union Mike describes.

3. In an effort to get 'close' to Mike, Susan decides to take up jogging. The out-of-shape Susan soon discovers that trying to keep up with the athletic Mike isn't all it's cracked up to be. Her plan backfires when an incredibly fit Edie catches on and leaves Susan in the dust.

4. Susan becomes alarmed when her ex-husband Carl starts hanging around and becomes friends with Mike. Things become even more complicated when Carl confesses to Mike he wants to get back together with Susan.



## Lynette



My poor, overwrought friend, Lynette Scavo (Felicity Huffman) is an ex-business-woman-turned-stay-at-home mom. Her salesman husband Tom (Tom Savant) is always on the road, leaving her at home with four rambunctious, hyperactive kids.

A lot will happen to Lynette during the first season, including a good case of 'Be careful what you wish for'.

In the first few episodes, we'll see Lynette struggling to raise her kids and dealing with issues such as ADD and 'MPK's (Moms with Perfect Kids). We'll watch as Lynette rages a losing battle against exhaustion, insecurity and Tom's hyperactive libido.

When Lynette reaches the breaking point, she demands Tom spend more time at home. Then, when he actually does, new tensions arise. Tom and Lynette battle over who is the disciplinarian. Instead of helping out with the kids, he takes up golf.

## *Some Possible Stories About Lynette*

1. Lynette's children keep misbehaving in the car. Lynette, based on advice from a friend, decides to punish the boys by getting out of the car and pretending to drive away. She pulls around the corner and counts to ten. She comes back to get the boys (hoping that they've been scared straight by the incident) only to discover that the boys have vanished. A panicked Lynette finally finds them at a woman's house. The woman, who saw Lynette kick the boys out of her car, chastises Lynette and informs her that someone from Social Services is on their way.

2. Lynette is feeling quite insecure when socializing with other mothers. They always have something to brag about where their children are concerned. Lynette becomes bothered that her children aren't good at anything... except making trouble. Lynette ultimately realizes that she can use her children's behavior as a bragging point. NO ONE has children as horrifically unruly as Lynette.

3. Lynette, who's tired of always being the one in charge of discipline, becomes infuriated when Tom keeps ducking his responsibility of laying down the law to his kids. (Tom finally admits he likes being the 'favorite parent'.) Lynette, however, brings out the disciplinarian in Tom when she purposely leaves his golf clubs out for the boys to ruin.

4. On their first night out in months, Tom takes Lynette to dinner at an expensive restaurant. They're having a wonderful time, until Tom runs into some business associates. Lynette is dismayed when Tom invites his friends to join them at their table. Tom proceeds to ignore his wife and he begins talking business strategy with his buddies. An annoyed Lynette has her revenge when she finally jumps into the conversation and begins proposing more impressive business strategies than Tom.

5. After Lynette has gone back to work, she becomes jealous of her nanny, who seems to have a much easier time of controlling her kids than she does. Lynette installs a nanny-cam hoping to find something incriminating she can use to fire the woman. She then is appalled to watch a videotape that shows her children calling the nanny "mommy." A guilt-ridden Lynette quits her fabulous job the next day and returns home to her exhausting role as stay-at-home Mom.



6. We open on an exhausted Lynette who's having a devil of a time getting her twins to go to sleep. Finally, she corrals them and sits by their bed to make sure they don't get up again. The next day, Lynette takes her kids to the park where she meets the mother of an autistic boy who also plays there. They quickly become friends. One afternoon, Lynette talks about how difficult it is raising her rambunctious children and how she worries about her twins' future, jokingly saying she hopes her sons don't grow up to be terrorists. The woman stares at Lynette for a beat and then replies, "My biggest hope for the future is that I outlive my son. That way I won't have to worry about who will take care of him." Lynette is stunned by the woman's honesty and says nothing.

That night, Lynette sits by her children's bed, content with the realization that whatever problems she has, they're small ones. Lynette kisses her sleeping children and goes downstairs. Moments later, she hears a crash. Lynette just smiles.





## Gabrielle

What can I say about Gabrielle Solis (Eva Longoria), the ex-model-turned-bored housewife, who seems to have everything. With a husband obsessed with making money, Gabrielle has begun an affair with her seventeen year-old gardener. She was hoping to add a little spice to her life, but she has no idea just how hot things are about to get...



The first few episodes we'll see Gabrielle trying to keep her affair with her gardener secret as her husband, Carlos (Ricardo Antonio Chavira), grows increasingly suspicious.



A new story arc will begin when Carlos decides he needs someone to spy on Gabrielle and he moves his seventy-five year-old mother into their home. Tensions quickly arise between the two women and everything comes to a head when Carlos' mother actually walks in on Gabrielle and John having sex. She runs out of the

house to tell her son, and, shockingly, is hit by a car and falls into a coma.

(Unfortunately for Bree, Andrew Van De Kamp is driving the car. But more about that later.)

Gabrielle, consumed with guilt over what's happened, decides to break off her affair with John. John reluctantly agrees. But Gabrielle is stunned when John (Kyle Searles) quickly begins dating Danielle, Bree's daughter. Gabrielle becomes obsessively jealous and begins stalking John and Danielle. One afternoon, Gabrielle follows the pair to a park and she witnesses them kiss. As she watches the tenderness the two have for one another, she's reminded of the time she first kissed Carlos. Gabrielle realizes what she's really jealous of is a love she once had, but lost. She makes the decision to make her marriage work, no matter what.



This will lead to a story arc that takes us to our season finale in which Gabrielle



## *Some Possible Stories About Gabrielle*

1. Gabrielle and John think they've been seen having sex by Edie Britt's seven year-old son. This leads Gabrielle to start buying the boy all sort of expensive gifts to keep him quiet. What Gabrielle learns after emptying her wallet, is that the boy had just broken his glasses and is completely nearsighted. In other words... he didn't see a thing.
2. Carlos asks John to keep a lookout on the house and report back to him any 'suspicious characters' who may go inside to visit Gabrielle. He gives John money to be his spy. An amused John begins buying Gabrielle gifts with the money. Carlos soon finds these, fanning the flames of his jealousy even more.
3. We'll see Carlos' mother start to push her agenda for grandchildren. Gabrielle becomes nervous that her mother-in-law is having an effect on her husband. She finally gets Carlos to tell his mother that kids are not part of their immediate future. Gabrielle thinks she's won the war, but we'll see Carlos' mother sneak into Gabrielle's private stash of condoms and begin pricking holes in them with a sewing needle.
4. Danielle, who has dreams of being a model, goes to Gabrielle for advice. Gabrielle, smarting over the fact the girl is dating her former lover, tells Danielle she's got potential but will probably need some minor plastic surgery to really make it as a model. This leads to tension between Gabrielle and Bree, who can't believe her friend would say something like that to a teenager.



# Bree

If I worry about anyone, it's Bree Van De Kamp (Marcia Cross).



Bree is the perfect wife and mother whose ideal world was shattered when her husband of eighteen years announced he wanted a divorce.

The first few episodes will see Bree and Rex going to a marriage counselor, trying to put their relationship back together. Just as Rex is about to move out of their house, Bree will solicit the help of his parents to save her marriage.

Rex's mother, who is in poor health, guilts her son into staying in the marriage. An incredibly resentful Rex informs Bree he'll stay. But tensions just get worse.



In the next arc, Bree and Rex (Michael Reilly Burke) try to go about their lives, still together but ultimately apart. Rex throws himself into his work and Bree starts to drink. What they don't see is the effect all this

tension is having on their kids. One night, in an effort to get high, Andrew steals some Vicodin from his father's sample case. He then takes the family car for a spin. He loses control of the vehicle and, fortunately for Gabrielle, hits Carlos' mother, sending her into a coma.

A guilt-ridden Bree and Rex hide the evidence. As the investigation starts to point to someone in the Van De Kamp household, we'll see Bree and Rex pull their marriage back together and reconcile.

Our season finale will

## *Some Possible Stories About Bree*

1. Bree is convinced their marriage counselor is on Rex's side. When Rex refuses to see someone else, Bree decides to gain the home court advantage. After Rex doesn't show up for a session, Bree offers to sew a loose button back on the counselor's shirt. She finds out that his wife is away for a few weeks and he has no one to take care of him. The following week, Bree shows up with some pre-prepared meals and a small sewing kit. The counselor is touched by Bree's thoughtfulness. By the next session, Rex is stunned to see the counselor no longer seems to be seeing things his way.

2. Bree and Rex attend a dinner party thrown by Gabrielle. While all the couples chat away, Bree is mortified when Rex casually mentions they're seeing a marriage counselor. Bree takes Rex aside and confronts him about revealing such a 'private' matter to their friends. Rex patronizingly suggests that Bree is too uptight about such matters. The evening wears on and Bree has a bit too much to drink, which results in her letting slip that Rex cries whenever he ejaculates.

3. Bree and Rex discover Andrew has been stealing medication from his father. Before they can stop him, Andrew takes the family car while stoned and runs into Carlos Solis' mother. Andrew passes out after he's left the car in the garage. Bree, who's heard Mrs. Solis was the victim of a hit-and-run driver, sees the blood on the car. Immediately, she puts two and two together. The final scene will see an emotionless Bree in the garage slowly cleaning the car in an effort to hide the evidence.



## *Mrs. Huber and the Measuring Cup*

The ironic thing about my friend, Susan?



She never really had any secrets. Not until she went over to Edie Britt's house and accidentally started a fire. No one knows this, of course, but Susan did leave behind some incriminating evidence.

Her glass measuring cup.

In the next episode Mrs. Huber (Christine Estabrook) finds that measuring cup in the charred remains of Edie's home. She puts two and two together and begins to suspect Susan's secret.

Subsequent episodes reveal Mrs. Huber hasn't told anyone else what she knows, because she plans on blackmailing Susan. We then find out it was Mrs. Huber who wrote the mysterious note:

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID.  
IT MAKES ME SICK.  
I'M GOING TO TELL.

Desperately in need of money, Mrs. Huber had planned on blackmailing me, but due to my suicide, Mrs. Huber has to look for her supplemental income elsewhere.

Mrs. Huber confronts Susan and suggests that 'as a friend' she'll keep her secret if Susan will give her a much needed 'loan'. Susan is shocked by this turn of events, but is forced to give into Mrs. Huber's demands.

Days after Susan gives Mrs. Huber the money, Mrs. Huber disappears.

Unbeknownst to Susan, Mrs. Huber is murdered by my husband, Paul Young. He had discovered that she had written the first blackmail note that lead to my suicide. Thinking

