

LOTTIE, THE TELEVISION AND SOAP OPERAS

Maisie Lyons and John Jacobs

In the days before camcorders and videos, Lottie enjoyed watching television. She was a mature older lady.

There was a weekly serial once a week on a Wednesday which eventually developed into a soap opera. She first encountered this when she was ill for a few weeks and confined to her home and she became hooked on this show.

Lottie was a devout church goer. She went twice on Sunday and to the midweek meeting which was on a Wednesday. That now presented a problem. If she went to the midweek meeting she would miss her soap opera which was shown on the same night. And there were no video recorders in those days!

Using some devious means, she persuaded the church to change their midweek meeting from Wednesday to Tuesday which they did. This meant she could attend the midweek meeting on Tuesday and not miss her soap opera on Wednesday. Success!

But two months later, the television company changed this soap opera broadcast from Wednesday to Tuesday. Lottie was crestfallen and very upset. She could not change the day of the midweek meeting again so what could she do?

Was there some poetic justice in this?

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SOAP OPERA

John Jacobs

Having read the above article makes me wish to record my problem.

I have a girl friend whom I love very much and occasionally she tells me that she loves me...

But four out of five weekdays she will not come out with me and I cannot visit her because she watches Eastenders on the television. She cannot miss it. She will not video it. She will not watch the Omnibus edition at the week end. She has to watch it when it is first broadcast. This programme is her first love. In addition she watches so much television that she must be a television addict.

When she has unexpected visitors she makes sure that they are not there when Eastenders is on. When the programme is on she will not answer the telephone or the door even if it is an emergency.

She knows all the characters and the plots.

I did research this programme and found that 95% of people who watch it are females who, if asked, can name the characters particularly the women characters and do so with ease.

The actors are not real actors but are made out to be celebrities and some are promoted to become heroes or heroines. The stories are often about who is sleeping with who and the women who watch it identify with some of the characters and take the programme's experiences to identify them with their own.

When we have had a mild disagreement or a problem to solve my girl friend will announce a remedy because she has seen it on Eastenders and she expects us to follow the Eastenders example.

Eastenders rules, OK?

Is there any future in my relationship with this woman who like many others, watch a lot of programmes such as the Jeremy Kyle show, Loose Women, Judge Judy et al. It has been said that if you watch more than two hours of television a day you are a television addict. Is that right?

Watching too much television is displacing other activities and duties and life is too short to waste on television.

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