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**Questions  
to ponder  
or for  
discussion:**

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(1) How do you think the drive for independence has affected marriages today?

(2) Does a woman need to give up her success strategies in order to have a good marriage?

(3) What can this woman do to get in touch with her own feelings of vulnerability that may keep her from allowing herself to feel interdependent?

*I* agree, being confident and independent can be very valuable in the workplace. And even at home, being able to stand on your own two feet and maneuver in the world is fantastic. But the aspect of independence we all want to be wary of is the part of it that keeps us from being close to our husband.

**Leah's thoughts:** That part of us that feels embarrassed to need our husband, or that feels vulnerable when we must rely on them. Recognizing our own "dependence" is a powerful tool in our arsenal for drawing our husband closer. Dependence must not be seen as a bad word in our society. Dependence, and interdependence, is what draws us ever nearer to each other and makes us stronger as a team. The key here is to think of your powerful independence as what allows you to build an even stronger interdependence.

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***Keeping a Journal —  
Optional Points to Ponder***

(Use a notebook, or just mull over in your spare time.)

- Are you willing and eager to be cherished, and if not, what might be holding you back?
  - In what ways is it possible for the marriage to significantly improve greatly although the wife may be the only one doing the work in the relationship?
  - How might the "independence is king" societal influence have affected your feelings about being cherished?
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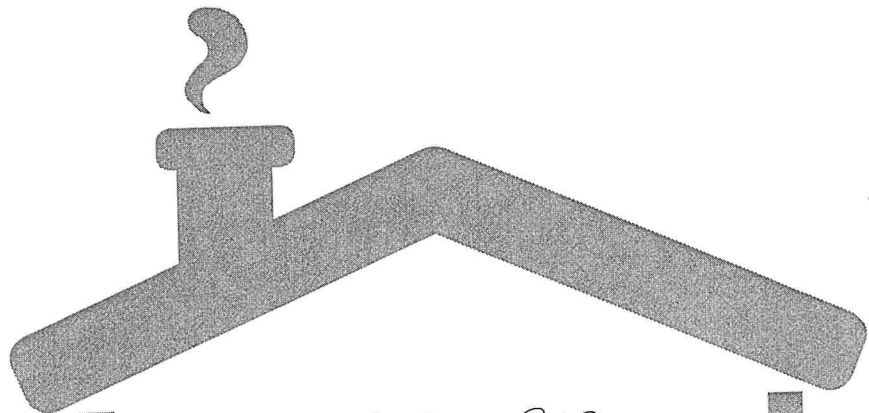
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### *Try This at Home*

- ✓ Once this week, or once a day, don't contradict or correct your husband's words or actions.
- ✓ Place a special treat that your husband will love in a place where he will find it.
- ✓ Identify one thing you would do differently if you could step back into your own life and begin anew.
- ✓ Notice if you have an emotional need for your husband's validation, and if you notice any urge to squelch that feeling.

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