



MARLENE WEST

Q: What soap operas do you watch?

M: I watch *Days of Our Lives*.

Q: When is that on?

M: It is on Monday through Friday 12:30 p.m., Channel 4. I have been watching it for five years.

Q: Do you watch any other soap operas?

M: No I don't. I don't have the time.

Q: So you make the time for that one?

M: I started watching *Days of Our Lives* when my children were small and that is why.

Q: What happens if you miss it?

M: I do miss it, but rarely.

Q: Do you have somebody else watch it for you?

M: No.

Q: What has been happening on *Days of Our Lives*? Can you give me a general story line.

M: It is too involved. After you have been watching the show that many years. One life is intertwined with a lot of the other characters so it is not as simple as it sounds.

Q: Have the same characters been carried out through all five years?

M: Yes, they are regulars.

Q: Where does it take place? What is the setting?

M: It is a small town.

Q: So it is not a hospital type of story.

M: A lot of the regulars are doctors and psychologists. So much action does take place in hospitals.

Q: Can you tell me what has been happening lately. Is it a marriage and divorce type of thing. Love affair type?

M: They all seem to be very consistent. There is marriage and divorce, court room scenes, which I find is the reason why women watch it day after day. They are always creating new scenes.

Q: When you sit down to watch it, do you do anything while you watch it?

M: Never.

Q: Do you eat lunch while you watch it?

M: Yes, I do.

Q: Do you watch the commercials?

M: Yes.

Q: Do you buy the products they are selling?

M: No.

Q: Do you find that what you see seems to be a pretty realistic portrayal of life, or do you think it is exaggerated?

M: Well, I think it is exaggerated and dramatized, but if it were not, I don't think the interest would be there. There is one girl on the show who has had the rottenest luck in the world. She always has problems and situations to deal with. But I know a lot of people and these things happen to them, but not so often. I think ordinary people get a break somewhere along the line, but the poor people on TV never do.

Q: There are 14 soap operas on now and you are only watching one of them.

M: That is all I can afford to watch. I am sorry I got hooked on this one because I have found that invariably wherever I am at 12:30 p.m. I have to find a TV set. Which is very unlike me.

Q: You don't usually get that involved?

M: I get involved, but not like that. My friend and I watch the same show. If anything happens to a character she just sobs and sobs. She says it is a release for her whereas I don't know what it is for me. It is just a story I got involved in.

Q: Like reading a long book?

M: These things never end.

Q: Do you think you will continue watching?

M: Yes, I do.

Q: Do you ever get disturbed?

M: Well I get a little perturbed when I get a phone call between 12:30 and 1:00. You can leave for a couple of days and follow it pretty well, though.

Q: Anything you would like to add?

M: Yes. I just bought a new gadget that allows me to tune into the audio of television. It is portable and now I can listen to my soap without having to go home. It's great!