

Author gives tips for real-life home

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Marni Jameson believes that somewhere between bedlam and a beautiful home, there's a middle ground — and it's not littered with toys.

She points readers toward it in *House of Havoc: How to Make — and Keep — A Beautiful Home Despite Cheap Spouses, Messy Kids, and Other Difficult Roommates*.

Jameson, a home columnist and author, aims for a home that's suited for real life, not a House Beautiful photo shoot. She advocates solutions that are workable rather than idealistic — ideas such as patterned upholstery fabrics that don't show stains and pet hair, drapes made from sale-price fabric and hot glue, and door mats that trap dirt before it gets tracked into the house. And she does it with humor and the credibility of one who's been there and survived.

House of Havoc is published by Da Capo Press and sells for the cheap-spouse-friendly price of \$16.95 in softcover.

— **Mary Beth Breckenridge**

http://www.ohio.com/lifestyle/home_books/83701317.html