



Columnist talks fix-up with humor

Kristen Cook Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Sunday, February 14, 2010 12:00 am

Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson is at it again. She's written a second book, "House of Havoc," about the trials of home ownership and redecorating.

If you like her columns, which run in *At Home*, you'll appreciate the book, which follows the same formula of home-improvement humor mixed with real experts' tips.

Even if you've given up hope of ever having a House Beautiful interior, you'll find something useful - or that just cracks you up. Take the chapter on her daughter's quest to redo her room, centered on crazy wallpaper in a shade Jameson dubs "streetwalker peony." Hilarious.

It does a little psychoanalyzing at the end with tips from a marriage and family therapist who explains that a kid's urge to redo his or her room is symbolic of other changes. But perhaps the biggest reason to read the book is the last chapter, in which Jameson lovingly talks about going home to the house where she grew up, a place where the drapes haven't been changed in decades and the walls are painfully white. It's sweet, and a reminder of what a home is all about.

QUICK REVIEW

"House of Havoc" by Marni Jameson (Da Capo Lifelong Books, \$16.95)