

## SHE READ ABOUT HONESTY

down at the beauty parlor and later that day sat Kimberly down and asked what she really thought, asked if anything at all was wrong, asked if she were happy.

The girl said she thought her mother was a hopeless drag, everything was wrong and she was only happy when she was stoned.

Then she left with a black man who had fur on his steering wheel.

The youngest girl found her mother in tears, insisted something was wrong, wanted to know if talking would help.

"Oh, no," said the woman, "not that," and she put her hand across the girl's mouth as if she were about to blurt out some awful secret.

## FAILURE OF THE BEASTS

"We wanted to get out of the city," she said, "so we moved up where there was sun and fresh air. We weren't afraid of hard work and we had everything we always wanted: a turkey, some geese, chickens, even a donkey.

"Then one day he just drove into the city and filed for divorce. I didn't know what to do. After a week I let the animals go and they came to the door and screamed for food."

I liked the look of her. I liked her soft hands and her white, white skin. I said,

"Come home with me, okay?"

"You got anything, a dog, cat, even a bird?" I shook my head.

"Then, yea. Maybe."