

RIGHT UP THERE WITH HERZOG'S DWARFS

ask her a question & get an equivocation
she'll always do the right thing though
especially if someone's watching
she brought up her daughter saying:
"If you do that people won't like you."
& you know how important it is to conform
there's less chance of getting caught in the act
of being yourself
she wears her respectability with ease
a grandmother at 42
she was born for the part
a controlling interest in other people's lives
there's a scene in Herzog's film that shows a camel
with two broken front legs
the uncomprehending animal keeps trying to stand
while a dwarf looks on & laughs
she wouldn't be able to watch that
without shedding 333 tears

NOT UNLIKE THE HONEYMOONERS

as they play out their drama
around the kitchen table
Ralph has done it again
he's let that big mouth of his
get away from him
contrite as always
he paces endlessly around that table
shrugging his shoulders
& making impotent gestures
Alice never moves
she sits there patiently
listening impassively
as he gets it all out
knowing full well that her bumbling husband
is going to take her in his arms
& plant a heart-felt kiss on her lips & say:
"Baby, you're the greatest."

-- John Levin

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