SYNOPSIS ON VALERIE MARTIN'S PROPERTY

Property takes place in Louisiana during pre-Civil War Era in 1820. This novel tells the story of Manon, a sad woman who is trapped in an unhappy marriage to a boorish and cruel man. Her husband finds that Manon is barren, so that he sleep with Sarah, the slave she received from her aunt as a wedding gift, to produce his only heir. Manon tells of her life isolated on the plantation with only the slave and her boorish husband, whom she despises. She feels trapped and longs for her family and the city life of New Orleans. Manon is upset by the betrayal and she becomes cruel toward her slaves, taking out the anger of her own life on her servants. Moreover, she is against the system that treats her as nothing more than the property of her husband.

When African-American rebels attack the plantation, Manon’s husband is killed. Her slave, Sarah, leaves her mistress without a thought and escapes with one of her children from Manon’s husband. After this flight, Manon's true nature is revealed to us. Manon determines to bring Sarah back and explores her anger as a result of her suffering.
Valerie Martin, an American novelist and short story writer, was born in Sedalia, Missouri in 1948, but she spent most of her childhood and young adult life in New Orleans. Martin was the daughter of a sea-captain John and his wife Valerie Metcalf. The Metcalfs lived in Missouri for three years before returning to New Orleans, which was the home of Valerie’s mother. She attended the University of New Orleans and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she received an MFA in Creative Writing. Martin has taught at some of universities, such as the University of New Orleans, New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, etc. She was married in 1970 to Robert M. Martin, an artist, on December 10, 1970, and has one daughter, Adrienne. Martine obtained a Masters degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1974. Author of several novels, Set in Motion (1978), Alexandria (1979) A Recent Martyr (1987), Mary Reilly (1990), The Great Divorce (1994), Italian Fever (1999), and Property (2003), Martin has also authored a non-fiction account of the life of Saint Francis of Assisi called Salvation: Scenes in the Life of St. Francis (2001). She is also the author of Love: Short Stories (1977). She has won the Orange Prize for Fiction 2003 with her novel Property, the story of political and personal freedom in America's Deep South in the early nineteenth century.
For Mother

By: Joe Fazio

Mother, who gave us her heart...her very soul.
Mother, who always supported her children
Mother, who's understanding never wavered.
Mother, the one who dried our tears.
Mother, who instilled confidence in her children.
Mother, who loved us like no other.
Mother, who quelled the anger within us.
Mother, who drove us to all our practices.
Mother, who never forgot our special occasions.
Mother, who protect her family, as a lion to a cub.
Mother, who scrimped and saved for our daily needs.
Mother, who was always the last to eat.
Mother, who was always the first to rise.
Mother, who cared for the animals.
Mother, a love that knew no limits.
Mother, who forever placed her family, before herself.
Mother, who was grateful, for every passing acknowledgement.
Mother, whose eyes shined, when she heard the words, I love you mom.
Mother, who always saw the good in us.
Mother, who always taught us to never give up.
Mother, who instilled in us, to be better.
Mother, who made us believe, we could accomplish anything.
Mother, mother...mother, you were like no other.

Mother, you will always remain, in our hearts, in our deeds,
in our thoughts, in our lives and in our prayers.

Surely, beyond the stars, there's a special place for Mothers.

Mom, I just wanna say, thank you so much...
Thanks for everything you have given or you have done to me...
I really appreciate you, mom...
Finally I passed my study and...

My thesis actually is dedicated for you...
I love you so much mom...
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- Mom, finally your little daughter passed her study well... it's all because your patience, prayers, support, encouragement... and many more effort... I owe you so much... thank you so much...

- My husband, thanks for your patience, kindness, support, understanding, prayers and also for the love that you always give to me... I love you more than words...

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