

## Mother Always Said

By Wayland Jackson

*Always wear clean underwear.  
If you had an accident and went to a hospital,  
what would they think of our family?*

*You can't get blood out of a turnip.*  
If someone owes you, and he cannot pay, then he cannot pay.

*It's okay to remove a non-bearing wall.*  
She removed a wall in every house we ever occupied,  
including a wall of prejudice.

*Always tell the truth.*  
*If you lie, you have to remember what you said.*  
*If you always tell the truth, you don't have to think about it.*

There's a lost sheep in the wilderness,  
a shut-in, a blind neighbor, an older citizen. Tend the sheep; ask nothing in return.

*We live in hope and die in despair.*  
Life's pains will someday over take us, but we are hopeful to the end.

*Never love something that can't love you back.*  
Don't love money, fame, power, position,  
art, music, literature, travel, or adventure.  
Love your wife, love your husband,  
your parents, your children,  
and your neighbors.

That's what Mother always said.