

I must admit, I quite like this reading from Proverbs. My Bible gives it the title: Ode to a Capable Wife. To me, this text celebrates the role of women in relationships, in the home, in the family; the exhaustive list also highlights for me the weight of everything that many of us take on. I've edited this text to bring it into our modern day and gave it a Gabriola flare. Here is Proverbs 31:10-31 in honour of women . . .

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her spouse trusts in her,

And her partner will have no lack of gain.

She does her partner good, and not harm,

all the days of her life.

She seeks treasures at GIRO,

And searches with willing hands.

She is like those who commute by ferry,

She brings her food over from Nanaimo.

She rises while it is still night,

And provides nourishment for her household,

And tasks for those who help her.

She considers property and buys it;

With the fruit of her hands she plants a garden.

She girds herself with strength,

And makes her arms strong.

She sells her merchandise at the Saturday market;

Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to an axe;

She chops wood and stacks it in the shed.

She opens her hand to the poor,

With the Gabriola Lions, she reaches her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid for her household when it snows,

For she has a wood stove and knows how to use it.

She knits hats and prayer shawls;

Her creations are cozy and purple.

She and her spouse are well known in the village;

People know them as wise leaders.

She sells her knitting projects at the market;

Even the local shops carry them.

Strength and dignity are her clothing;

She laughs at the future.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,

And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household,

And does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her happy;

Her spouse, too, praises her.

Many women have done excellently,

But you surpass them all.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

But a woman who reveres God is to be praised.

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,

And let her works praise her in the village.