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LETTERS | MARCH 23, 2011

## Not All Reality TV Is Stereotypical

Regarding Nancy deWolf Smith's "[Somebody Out There Hates Us](#)" (Television, March 11): In "The Real Housewives of D.C.," for example, Stacie Turner is the polar opposite of everything your article proposes. She is my wife, so I admit some bias. Stacie embodies almost everything positive and "real" about the contemporary American woman.

The truth of this genre is that reality can often be much stranger than fiction. What many people really hate about these shows is that they illustrate, sometimes with extreme cases, just how truly dysfunctional people are. It's much easier to pretend that it's all fake. Does that suggest that the American viewing public is now clamoring to return to a steady diet of sitcoms and fictionalized dramas so we get the happy ending? Real life just is not that simple, and viewers know it's much more complicated.

You only mention the bad and the ugly of reality TV. In my family's case, however, there is real good. Through Extra-Ordinary Life, awareness of the foster-care issue and good works related to its kids have increased exponentially. Stacie found her birth family in Nigeria and has discovered a richness and warmth in her heritage that will help us make our children truly become "global citizens" in the future.

Now that's real.

**Jason E. Turner**

*Washington*

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