

SHE THINKS I'M REAL

A waitress was taking orders from a couple and their young son. She jotted on her pad deliberately and silently as the father and mother gave their selection and instructions as to what was to be substituted for what, and which dressing changed to what sauce.

When she finally turned to the boy, he began his order with a kind of fearful desperation. "I want a hot dog " he started. And both parents barked at once, "No hot dog!" The mother went on. "Bring him the lyonnaise potatoes and the beef, both vegetables, and a hard roll and -"

The waitress wasn't even listening. She said evenly to the youngster, "What do you want on your hot dog?" He flashed an amazed smile.

"Ketchup, lots of ketchup, and - bring a glass of milk."

"Coming up," she said as she turned from the table, leaving behind the stunned silence of utter parental dismay.

The boy watched her go before he turned to his father and mother with astonished elation to say, "You know what? She thinks I'm real! She thinks I'm real!"