## ALL MY MARRIAGES, DIVORCES, AFFAIRS, MURDERS, AND RESURRECTIONS

Four decades of ridiculous melodrama will come to an end when All My Children goes off the air this Friday.

**By WILLA PASKIN** 

AMERICA'S most histrionic soap opera, ABC's All My Children premiered in 1970, the story of four families in the Main Line Philadelphia suburb Pine Valley. Over the next 40-plus years, the cast and drama metastasized, with more than 200 characters and untold plot twists, love affairs, betrayals, and ponderous looks, dispensed at an increasingly frenetic pace and balanced, of course, with a high-minded interest in social issues. But they always saved time for ghosts.





