



**Here you are, darling:**  
Confronting the fear  
of gift-giving

# The fine art of prezziquette

Newly loved-up **Helen Croydon** hasn't a clue what to get her man for Christmas

**T**HE prospect of Christmas shopping is leaving me quivering in terror this year. It's not the increasing density of crowds in shopping centres. It's not even the multiple paper cuts to my lips from biting Sellotape (I never learn). This year I have an extra mission and I have no brief or skill set to carry it out. I have to buy a present for my new boyfriend. Yikes!

According to a survey this month by Elite Singles, almost three quarters of new couples think gift-swapping at Christmas is important. No getting out of it then. Worryingly, that sentiment came from men more than women.

The festive period is a grossly underestimated stress for newly established couples. What, when and how much? Do you go romantic or practical? I once bought a boyfriend a toolbox because he seemed to like that sort of thing. Didn't go down well.

I'm happily six months into a relationship. Long enough to assume inclusion on this year's gift list; not long enough to identify any gaping material holes in his life.

I'm having recurring nightmares, in which I'm in a menswear department but all I can see are shelves and shelves of reindeer socks and Santa cufflinks. My peril is compounded by the fact that 15 per cent of men in the same survey thought it appropriate

to buy something super-expensive within a month of dating.

Which raises another sticky point of how much to spend. I earn significantly less than the new man in my life. Personally, I'm happy accessorising from Primark but you can't do that for someone else. Can you?

I have two weeks to confront my fear. I could hire a private detective to unearth his shopping habits. Or I could start a movement for Christmas Amnesty for New Couples – no presents until you've known each other for at least three years! Perhaps it could be enshrined into the T&Cs of dating apps. Or a mandatory topic to discuss on a first date. Right after the conversation about whether you want children.

More research this month by economists at international bank ING found that nearly a third of Brits didn't appreciate or even remember whether they liked their gifts last year.

If that's the case, we may as well save our money and spend it on getting tipsy together. I just have to find a romantic way of saying that.

**To gift or not to gift?**

Text the word **IEWS** followed by your comment, name and where you live to **65700**. Standard network charges apply.

**STUCK FOR IDEAS?** TRY THESE FOR SIZE



**Batman rubber duck**  
£8, johnlewis.com



**BB-8 Droid**  
£109.99,  
iwantoneofthose.com



**Ladybird book**  
£6.99, menkind.co.uk

**Wooden beer crate**  
£1, poundland.co.uk



**Mulberry shawl (yep, shawl)**  
£125, selfridges.com



**Hamper for him**  
£60, hotelchocolat.com



**You Tube / BubzBeauty**  
+ 2,960,955 FANS

