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# Sassy Girl's Guide to the Holidays

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I'm making my list and checking it twice...would Santa find me naughty instead of nice if I purchase a few seasonal gifts for myself? Charity begins at home, right? That's the ideology I'm following to justify loading up on goodies for myself while I'm supposed to be buying gifts for everyone else! Holiday shopping can be stressful on your mind, body and spirit, not to mention your bank balance, so what better way to survive the pushy crowds and the seasonal anxiety than by adding a few personal incentives from this list to your holiday shopping quest?



**1. Apple iPhone 3GS.** It seems that everyone and their dog covets an Apple iPhone—and I'm no different. I was recently gifted with an iPhone after a year-plus of protesting its existence in my life. Again and again, I emphatically declared that this phone had no place in my world. I was strong. I didn't crumble. Then one day my other half magically appeared with that Apple box in tow—a surprise, for me. Now a few weeks into the cult that is the Apple iPhone and I'm a complete convert. I feel compelled to spread the word about the joy brought forth by this tiny piece of technical genius! Life IS so much easier, so much more FUN with an iPhone 3GS in my hand, and your life can be, too! No more carting around a separate phone and a separate iPod. Spontaneity is back on the cards due to all those deliciously addictive iPhone apps available at my fingertips. Want to find a nearby Thai restaurant, buy a present on a whim, decide on a movie—all while out and about? I can do that...ALL of that with my shiny new iPhone. See, I'm a much better friend thanks to the Apple iPhone. And, yes, you can be, too! The iPhone 3GS with 16GB (\$199) or 32GB (\$299) is available at Rogers\_stores nationwide. (iPhone image courtesy of Apple)



**2. Sephora Limited Edition Ultimate Blockbuster.** Sephora leaves all other cosmetics retailers in their wake with this epitome of make-up gift sets, the Ultimate Blockbuster. Prepare to be amazed! 96 eye shadows, 60 lip glosses, three pencil eyeliners, six cream eyeliners, two lip liners, three blushes, brushes, applicators, literally, the works! The word "ultimate" doesn't seem to do this peerless treasure trove of beauty joy justice. Sephora makes shopping for make-up easy and plumps up your beauty regime with pretty much every item under the cosmetics rainbow. Not only is this Blockbuster incredible value (it's \$400 worth of product for the jaw-dropping price of only \$62!) but it's just awesome to look at. So many makeup possibilities all in one



Real Housewives of New Jersey  
Airs Sat @ 7pm ET/4pm PT



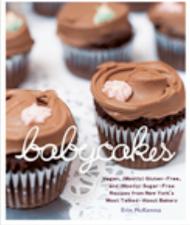
Real Housewives of Atlanta

Airs Sat @ 8pm ET/5pm PT

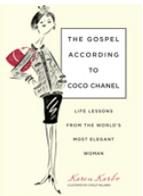
incredible case. Shop in person, via their [website](#), or over the phone at 1-877-SEPHORA.

**3. Entertaining & Helpful Books.** There's a reason why bookstores are always so busy at this time of year—books are a gift-giving crowd pleaser. I love to give and receive them. With the new year just around the bend, I've selected several engaging yet inspirational tomes to start 2010 on the right foot with the best of intentions:

***Unclutter Your Life in One Week*** by Erin Rooney Doland (published by Simon & Schuster Canada; available at [Chapters.Indigo.ca](#), \$20.) The creator of the wicked organizational website, Unclutterer.com, has published her much anticipated first book. Just like the title states, Ms. Doland will offer tips to get your home, office, car, heck, your whole life, all sorted. Some believe that a messy home is the result of a fuzzy mind or vice versa. I'm not taking any chances; this book is a must have especially for the post-holiday reality when all those newly received presents can quickly become unsightly clutter.



***Babycakes*** by Erin McKenna (published by Clarkson Potter; available at [Chapters.Indigo.ca](#), \$19). The trendy New York City bakery famous for its sugar-free cupcakes and treats has finally revealed its secret recipes for their decadent, almost healthy goodies. Remove the guilt along with the butter, and bake yourself into a satisfied cookie stupor. With this helpful cookbook living in the kitchen, deprivation and dieting are so last year!

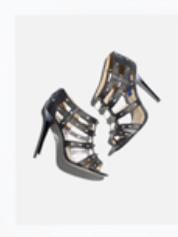


***The Gospel According to Coco Chanel*** by Karen Karbo (published by Globe Pequot Press; available at [Chapters.Indigo.ca](#), \$17.) Sometimes all a girl needs is the advice of a fashion icon. Check out this intriguing bio featuring Coco's timeless tips on money, success, style and living an authentic life. Slice gals like me can now ask the question "What would Coco Chanel do?" and have the answers to many of life's mysteries and situations all in one adorable book.

**4. Gift cards.** Bit of a no brainer here. Gone are the days when gift cards meant that zero thought went into your gift giving. Actually, the opposite is true nowadays. Instead of laying down hard earned cash for a sweater that won't fit, or a candle holder that will end up hidden in the back of a cupboard somewhere, generously giving a gift card screams "I REALLY want you to find the ideal prezzie." Personally, I love them. It's like getting free money at your favourite shop. Most stores and many websites offer gift cards or certificates, so the options for a free shopping spree are simply mind boggling!



**5. Tiffany & Co. Key Necklace.** If the jolly fella in the red suit is feeling especially generous this year, I would love to receive one of these spectacular Tiffany & Co. key necklaces. With a dazzling collection of elaborate sterling silver, 18k gold, platinum and diamond designs at several price points to choose from, there's a look suitable for every woman's style and budget. This sensational collection starts with the timeless sterling silver Crown Key (key \$215; chain \$80) and reaches mesmerizing heights with the stunning Square Petals Key (key \$6,450; chain \$530), beautifully crafted in platinum and diamonds. Simply breathtaking! Shopping for oneself was never more decadent and fun! The Key collection is available at Tiffany & Co. locations in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Montreal, and Toronto, or you can shop online at [www.tiffany.ca](#), or by phone at 1-800-265-1251. (Image courtesy of Tiffany & Co., [www.tiffany.ca](#))



**6. Jimmy Choo High Heel Sandals from H&M.** H&M is forecasting a major crush of fashionistas when the drool-worthy Jimmy Choo collection lands in their stores November 14. Expect long lines and a fight for your fashionable right. I prefer my holiday season to be a time of peace on earth and goodwill to all, so I'm sending someone else in my place to this H&M battle of wills and rogue elbows. Maybe Santa can spare an elf or two? I'm loving the 100% leather high heel sandals accessorized with trendy metal details and studs (\$129). Oh, yes. Edgy with just the right amount of trendiness, this pair is an absolute winner. (Jimmy Choo sandal image courtesy of H&M)

**7. Concert tickets.** Taylor Swift, U2, Wilco, Jann Arden, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses and Dinosaur Jr. have all announced Canadian tour dates for 2010. If you're like me—permanently attached to your iPod—you would love to discover concert tickets in your stocking. Give the gift of live music with the help of [Ticketmaster](#).



**8. Tonal Magnolia Robe.** Winter will be setting up shop in our neck of the woods whether we like it or not. To avoid seasonal depression disorder, it's best to accept this fact by preparing for hibernation in a toasty robe. This little gem from [Anthropologie](#) (\$99) packs a warm punch. Hood? Check. Trendy belt? Check. Cozy yet flattering layers of jersey? Check. Plus, a sprinkling of adorable Magnolia petals joyously dance across the robe to remind me that Spring will return—some day. Defy the Winter chill! Be stylish, be warm, and put Jack Frost in his place once and for all. Anthropologie recently set up shop in Toronto and Edmonton, however Canadian

ladies located elsewhere can purchase the Tonal Magnolia Robe via Anthropologie's beautiful [website](#).

**9. Assortment of Colourful Work Accessories.** Work takes up most of our waking hours so it's perfectly acceptable to





desire the most pleasant work environment possible. Enter the merry world that is the [See Jane Work website](#), the glorious home to fabulous office supplies that will make you smile despite looming deadlines. I spy with my little eye so many goodies that I must have for my office! For starters, I'd like to feather my nest with their [magnetic birdie](#). Keeper of paper clips, she's not a fair-weather feathered friend, but a cheerful office helper and a real steal at \$17. To keep her company, the [Cat and Dog Staple Free Stapler](#) (\$11) would find its forever home on my desk. I love so many of the cool products on this site, it's easy to forget that the holidays are a time for giving and not just giving to myself! With this selfless theory in mind, I'll halt my greedy personal shopping spree and add one more item that would be a life saver in the office to not only myself but others as well. Thinking philanthropically, the [Island Leather Sewing Kit](#) (\$15) would be a welcome addition to my desk drawer. Fashionably cute, but oh so practical for that fallen hem or wobbly button.

**10. Dinner, Movie, Raincheque?** Okay, some might find this gift choice a cop-out but, seriously, many of us don't want for much. What I would like more than anything is to spend quality time with the people that I love. The run-up to the holidays is a bit of a scheduling nightmare for most of us, so I plan on asking friends and family for social raincheques. Dinner and dancing planned for the new year, a movie night with friends, even an old-fashioned girlie sleepover complete with sleeping bags, unlimited junk food and the hottest gossip. Sure, the gift of spending time with loved ones could be considered cheap but it's ever so cheerful!

Happy holidays, everyone!

Written by: Jackie Middleton

For more of Jackie's writing, please check out her blog at [www.losethatgirl.com](http://www.losethatgirl.com).

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