

Mother's Day Gifts

With Mother's Day coming up a lot of people are faced with the problem of finding a gift for mom that she will really like. This may not be a problem if she's still young, but if she's over the hill she may well feel like one mother I heard about who told her children, "Don't give me anything I have to feed, water, dust, or look after."

Her children thought an answering machine would make an ideal gift, but it would start recording messages before she could get to the phone, and by the time she turned it off most people had hung up and she had no idea who had called. So they got her caller ID, but in order to read the names she had to stand so the light hit the phone in a certain way and hold her head at the right angle to read through her bifocals, all of which was hard on her bad neck. Next they tried a cordless phone, which she liked at first because she didn't have to rush to pick up the phone before the answering machine kicked in, but she didn't remember to recharge the battery and when it died in the middle of a conversation she was afraid the caller would think she had hung up. That was when she added "or look after" to her list.

Or maybe she did that after the bread maker that her loving family gave her because she'd always enjoyed baking her own bread, and this would save all that mess and kneading. But the first batches she

made went into the garbage because they didn't rise properly, and she found the machine a real chore to clean because dough got stuck under the little mixer thing in the bottom and she had to dig around with something to get it out.

Satin sheets were another disaster. They lasted only one night because the blankets kept sliding off and she had to get up repeatedly to put them back on.

I was told of these botched efforts to find a suitable gift by a lady who bought my first book to give her mom for Mother's Day. At least it doesn't have to be fed, watered, or looked after. Dusted, maybe, if she decides she doesn't like it, but I'm hoping she will.