

GRETA + WILL's XMAS GUIDE 2.0

A lot of people are making gift guides now, everyone and their mother. What is behind this desire?

Gift guides are so common because people are looking for something to get someone that is outside of what they might buy for themselves. Making one is the same thing as showing your year-end Spotify list or sharing your Top 10 movies. It's explaining yourself through consumption, which we all do. If you asked someone "Tell me about that shirt you're wearing," they would have a story about where they bought it and why, and for how much. It's self-expression and it *is* really fun. I'm definitely not denying that.

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You didn't ask for it and you don't want it and here we all are!

People are mad at the proliferation of gift guides. Miri's boyfriend [told her](#) that "lists are kind of fascist."

But two (2) friends and my sister asked if we were making one because they benefited from last year's, and that's enough for me.

Honestly, all the good recs are from Will, which can be found below in sans serif.

In November, beloved newsletter [Dirt](#) (you might consider gifting a [subscription](#) in the new year to the most online person in your life) asked "what's on my holiday list" and I said:

I *heard* that my Merry Rizzmas gift guide [last year](#) resulted in several successful exchanges between bfs and gfs. So the lord's work will be revived... meanwhile here are the best Dirt-y choices:

- Luxury lighting outfit Apparatus commissioned The Cinnamon Project to make [custom incense](#) for each of their London, New York, and Los Angeles showrooms, and they're available to purchase — at least your home can smell like it would have a \$32,000 horsehair pendant lamp in it.
- My former roommate's ex-situationship has been on the anti-sex wave longer than you. Buy their [shirt](#).
- Set your Instagram alerts for [@press_sf](#) and snag a rare book such as *Le monde du pain* (1984) or *Fireplaces* (1992).
- If I win the lottery the sign will be my [45r wardrobe](#)
- I'd like a pile of satsumas

I'm just now realizing I misunderstood the assignment. I don't know what ***I*** want to ask for!! From my parents, I usually get a flight home and some sweet surprises. An email draft to my grandmother is sitting in my inbox; I am supposed to suggest a gift around the \$100 mark and I am stumped. I had the idea of asking for a gift certificate to go toward a [babaa](#) sweater. (At

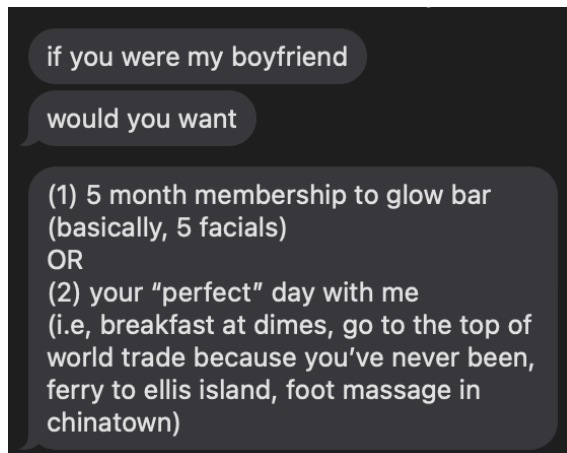
¹ <https://www.bustle.com/entertainment/emily-mester-american-bulk-shopping-consumerism-interview>

Max's Halloween party Willa was wearing the most gorgeous turtleneck I'd ever seen and then a month later I got her number to ask where it was from. Babaa, but of course.) I could ask for toiletries, specifically curl products from [Davines](#). Seriously any girl with hair on her head would be happy to receive that.

But what do I want if there's no limitations? I can't go there right now.

I've been trying to be less materialistic in my desires / to have less materials in my possession. I humiliated myself doing a clothing sale on my Stories but I actually sold a fair amount so I don't regret it. I didn't even post half of the load because it got too dark and I was going to a dinner party at Heather's, which was beautiful and not cluttered at all. So I never had the heart to finish. Maddie also has a lot of clothes to offload and that girl finds incredible stuff on Poshmark. What should we do? Host something at our apartment? Just stop our whining and take it to Beacon's?

Re: experiences > items, Shira is wondering:



I said option 2.

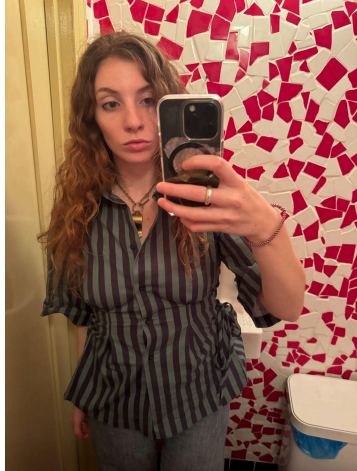
Will and I sort of did No Buy November, this new thing he made up after we went to Paris and London, specifically after he got the best ever jacket from [Casey Casey](#).



It's nice to get something you can both wear.

However, that philosophy failed me when I lost a [Cawley Studio shearling hat](#) that wasn't actually mine to lose in the Sagrada Familia.

Will was very good at the No Buy, especially when I clarified that food didn't count. I was mostly good, only slipping up when I accompanied Ariella to the [Rachel Comey](#) sample sale (her first ever sample sale!) and I was shaking and shivering until I decided I could get the cutest denim mini skirt and a striped top that another girl tried to take and I said, "Excuse me, that was mine," meaning I had to get it.



Last year I made flower brooches and I was very happy with them :-). All you need is at least two kinds of fabric, sturdy needle and embroidery thread, cotton balls or something for stuffing, and an oversized safety pin. If you want more in-depth instructions just ask.

Mira's off-brand Jelly Cat



Theo, the most stylish man in Matane



I'm doing another craft project this year for some gifts, which, like the brooches, is inspired by something I saw at the store [November 19](#) on Orchard Street. I'm worried it won't pan out. It's

20 days until Christmas. Maddie, Tybalt,² and I watched *Bad Santa* last night (while drinking bourbon-spiked eggnog) and it reminded me of how much I loved opening advent calendars as a kid. We had chocolate ones from Trader Joe's as well as antique ones that opened onto illustrated nativity scenes. It would be cool to customize your [own](#) with tiny trinkets.

I've offered to loan [American Bulk](#) by Emily Mester to all my friends who regret what they bought on Black Friday — “on” being not even accurate anymore, because, like Mester said, “Have you noticed how it's starting earlier and earlier?” I [interviewed her](#) on a rainy day at a cafe in Bed Stuy. It was so nice and I think we're going to be friends. About half of our conversation was off-the-record advice seeking about [redacted]. The “essays on excess” are more personal and memoiristic than the jacket might suggest; while we mostly covered shopping and material consumption, she has some brilliant meditations on overconsumption's less tangible manifestations. It's a nice cover, too. Even though Emily's dad (who is featured heavily) hasn't read it and probably never will, he's bought like 20 copies for people he knows.

Sort of relatedly, I love the idea of [Selected Amazon Reviews](#) by Kevin Killian (1952 – 2019), published by who else but Semiotext(e). An excerpt:

Darwin the Wizard Marionette (Created by Artist Daniel Oates)
by Bozart Toys

★★★★★

I Love This Puppet
February 9, 2005

Puppets and marionettes make even the oldest of grown-ups into children. No one knows this fact of life better than master creator Daniel Oates, the renowned artist. I bought Darwin on a whim, wanting to produce some magic spells to get myself a raise at work. I figured with all the kids bragging about how Oates's four-string system made his marionettes impossible to tangle that even I could manage to take him out of the box. I liked what I saw and went ahead and ordered the whole lot of Oates's magical “dolls”—all of them boasting names that begin, like his, with the letter *D*.

There's a wonderful full-size puppet theater you can buy with shifting backdrops of medieval scenes. It's a little like *Shrek* come to life. The lovely Princess Destiny, her fuchsia hair almost silvery in the moonlight of San Francisco, is guarded by her knight, Sir Dorric. The strange and weird oversized raven, Dave, caws out a greeting to any who come to my apartment in the Mission. Dexter the Jester will tell a few jokes and mouth some warped wisdom, like the fool in

² Let them be an example of giving the gift of MARRIAGE

King Lear. The extravagant unicorn, Delilah, loves Princess Destiny and will often approach her to try to tease some barley sugar out of her long, elegant, fingertipped hand. As you ring the doorbell of the moat, watch out for Dunstan, the playful dragon. He'll breathe fire all over you if you don't watch out. In this way my medieval fantasies go unchecked, thanks to the mastery of the one and one Daniel Oates.

Other book ideas <3 :

[Earlier](#)

[Geneviève Castrée: complete works, 1981 - 2016](#)

[Sophie Calle: The Sleepers](#)

Finally, I would like to recommend a Big Bag to put your books in. I had multiple awkward experiences this year with people shading my LUDICROUSLY CAPACIOUS bag. I like the possibility that a huge bag suggests. Resourcefulness is chic.



[SC103 cocoon bag](#)

The actual goods

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tea. you need to be tea-maxxing. buy direct from china, in bulk, and save on shipping: here's a [fragrant black tea for summer cold-brewing](#), a [pine-smoked black tea from yunnan](#), a banger [sichuan black tea](#), and a [creamy fujian white tea](#)

best [uniqlo pants](#)

best [balsamic vinegar](#) on the planet

books to read: [North Woods](#), [Ayako](#), [Marble in Metamorphosis](#)

taiwanese [apple soda](#)

japanese [honey butter chips](#)

CDs, because vinyl is too expensive / hard to maintain in a dusty apartment. some jams from this year: [Cindy Lee](#), [Charli XCX](#), [Adeline Hotel](#), [Nala Sinephro](#), and [Slow Pulp](#)

little red [bag](#)

the gift of [privacy](#)

the gift of [taste](#)

coffee mint [soap](#)

danish stainless steel [breakfast bowl](#) that goes pretty hard, or anything from this [stainless steel series](#) actually

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[NYRA subscription and hat bundle](#)

[NUTS 2](#)

Reiss [enamel storage thing](#), good for dried goods

[whale knife](#)

[incense that must be smelled to be believed](#)

[turtle incense holder](#)

[chillbies](#) in umber

wall-mounted [muji cd player](#) by fukasawa

[porcelain pitcher](#) in the best blue

[glass pitcher](#) for summer batches of iced tea

[ceramic cups](#) from arhoj

cozy [candle](#)

[iron pot rack](#) that looks good anywhere

The Wire [on blu ray](#)

[americano](#) for mixing with soda

ultimate [white negroni substance](#)

anything you can find from this [umbrian wine producer](#)

high-proof pear alcohol for after dinner sips. [trust me bro](#)

[ham](#)

[carbon steel pocket knife](#) with deer horn handle for the whittler in your life

[anything](#) you can [find](#) on ebay or buyee from wafflish waffle, a now-defunct brand of clothing and handbags and other nice stuff

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small, versatile acrylic [side table](#)

egg [dress](#) for gals

45r [overshirt](#)

[big ol' cross-body bag](#) from man-tle

anything from [pas de calais](#)

anything from [michael leach](#)'s studio

the gift of [sleep](#)

go to bushwick and have [phil panza](#) make you a custom scone

go to london and have [georgia kemball](#) make you a custom ring

go to korea and have [amoebazoo](#) give you a tattoo of your pet

if you really love something, get it framed by [weston ulfig](#) at his bed stuy shop