

**\$ EASY MONEY \$**

# are you feeling present pressure?

'Tis the season for tricky gift-giving problems. But these simple solutions have got you covered. **by cately hill**

## PROBLEM 1:

### My friend got me a gift but I didn't get her anything!

**SOLUTION** Oh, that moment: She's cheerily handing you a pressie and you are trying to smile but are totally panicking. Remember, you don't always have to give a gift just because you got one. But if you feel really bad and want to cover your tracks, say, "I love it, but I wasn't going to give you your gift until next week!" Then keep your eyes out for something amazing to give her back!



try: Clinique Click and Be Happy, \$28, macys.com

## PROBLEM 2:

### I got a new BF (yay!), but I don't know how much to spend on him (ugh!).

**SOLUTION** You could do some crazy math that multiplies how many months you've been dating by the number of times you've said "I love you" (or whatever)! Instead, just talk about your limit. Try, "I'm really excited to get you a gift, but let's agree to spend less than \$50." Now the only stress left is finding the *perfect* present: Turn to page 128!



## PROBLEM 3:

### Can I return a gift I hate for the cash?

**SOLUTION** The truth: It's unlikely you'll get cash back without a receipt, but there's good news: Most stores will allow exchanges (some even without a receipt) as long as the tags are still attached. Just make sure to return it quickly—there's usually a time limit! If the gift giver asks about it later, you can just say you had something similar, but you were able to swap it for a great item you *love*. Thanks!



### CAN I REGIFT IT?

There's nothing wrong with regifting. It's only tacky if you don't do it right! So rewrap the gift and make sure there are no tags that are addressed to you. (Seems duh, but it happens all the time!)



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## CUTE CELEB GIFT TIP!

Growing up, I worked a number of jobs since money was tight. One trick I learned was to save \$10 to \$15 from every paycheck for a holiday fund. By the end of the year, I had saved up enough to buy all my friends' gifts!"