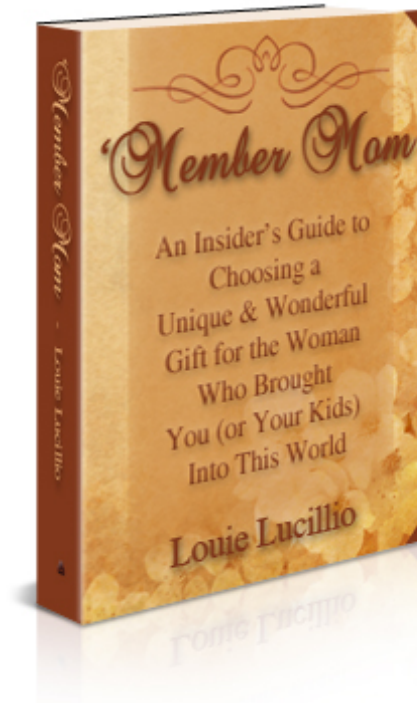


*"She's Not Just Any Body's
Mom... She's Yours!"*



Louie Lucillio

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Introduction

Where would we be without Moms?

Ah, mothers! Where would we be without them? Not here, that's for sure. We'd be floating around in the universe, disembodied and unconscious, never getting to enjoy a cold beer, a great pizza, or our collection of every season of Gilligan's Island on DVD. So we should thank Mom for bringing us into the world. Nine months of being uncomfortable, cranky, ill, fat, etc., all just to get us here. Pretty nice of her when you stop and think about it!

And we don't honor Mom just for giving birth to us. There's a lot more to being a mother than pregnancy and delivery. Think back over your entire life, and it doesn't take long to realize that we can never come close to repaying our moms for everything they've done for us. Getting up several times a night to feed us. Patiently teaching us to eat solid food, and cleaning up the mess we made of ourselves, and the high chair, and the kitchen. And speaking of messes, don't forget the thousands of wet and dirty diapers Mom changed. Worrying over us as we got ear infections, colds, teeth, and bruises as we learned to walk.

How about making our breakfast every day for years, along with lunch and supper? Helping us with our homework, driving us to ballet and basketball practice. Being our Scout den mother. Holding birthday parties and sleepovers for our friends. Teaching us to share our toys so that we'd have friends to begin with. Reading to us, tucking us in, doing our laundry. Cheering us on at Little League and soccer. Helping us learn our cheer leading routines and moves. And, most important of all, helping us to grow up into decent human beings. Teaching us right from wrong. Taking us to Sunday school. Teaching us good manners.

It's not just a saying; the hand that rocks the cradle truly does rule world. Let's face it, if it weren't for good moms, there'd be a whole lot more jerks, criminals, and reality TV stars in the world.

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Chapter 1: A Brief History of Mother's Day

The "Official Story" – More or Less

Of course, it goes without saying; we should be honoring our mothers year 'round. But we do set aside one day a year as a particular day to express our appreciation for everything Mom has done for us, and to tell her how much we love her. Officially, in America, Mother's Day has been around for less than a hundred years. (And did you know it got started as an anti-war protest? Yep. Keep reading.)

But many cultures throughout history, going back to ancient times, have had a day where it was customary to honor the mothers of society, even if it wasn't always called Mother's Day. For your enjoyment, what follows is a brief history of Mother's Day as we've come to know it today. (I got most of this from Wikipedia, so if it turns out to be wrong, sue them, not me!)

Ever heard of Cybele? Yeah, me neither. But in ancient Greece, she was considered the mother of the gods. In other cultures she was considered Mother Earth, which some folks these days call Gaia. At any rate, it's thought that Cybele/Gaia worship eventually led to the custom of honoring our human mothers.

Maybe you've heard of Matronalia? If so, you're a lot smarter than I am. This was an ancient Roman holiday dedicated to Juno, the goddess of childbirth. (So that's where Hollywood got the title of *Juno* for the recent movie about a pregnant teenager!) Matronalia was a day to honor motherhood and childbirth, and on this day, mother's received gifts from their husbands and children. But unlike today, when many of us take Mom out to eat, Roman moms didn't get a break from the kitchen on their special day. They were expected to cook a meal for their slaves, who were given the day off.

In Anglo-Saxon culture, Mother's Day is also tied to religion. It's thought to have begun back in the 1500s, when it became customary to visit one's "mother" church; i.e., the church you grew up attending, on the 4th Sunday of Lent, three weeks before Easter. Because this meant so many people were being reunited with their mother, who still attended the old church, the two senses of "mother" soon became conflated and it became a day to honor not just your mother church, but your earthly mother too.

Made in America

Here in America, Mother's Day has its origin not in religion per se, but in an anti-war protest by women back in the late 1800s. Julia Ward Howe, author of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, wanted a day set aside for women to show their opposition to war, which she called Mother's Day. (OK, so she was a bit fickle on the whole war thing.) However, the idea never really took off, and no governments formally recognized the day.

But a few decades later, a woman named Anna Jarvis picked up Howe's idea of Mother's Day, but instead of making it an anti war protest, she envisioned it as a day to simply honor mothers. The first Mother's Day was strictly a local affair, being observed in a single church in Grafton, West Virginia in 1908. But the custom spread like wildfire, and in a few years it was practically a nationwide institution. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson formally recognized Mother's Day, and now here we are.

(And guess what? In 1917, Anna Jarvis herself began opposing the holiday! Can you guess why? She said it had become too commercialized. Go figure. There's just no pleasing some people!)

Chapter 2: Don't Listen to Mom

Ignore Her or Else!

OK, so we've covered that Moms are the greatest thing since sliced bread, and with my eloquent prose I've convinced you to do something nice for your Mom this Mother's Day. So now what? What can you get for a lady who tells you over and over that she doesn't want anything? Of course, she may not want anything specific, but you can darn well bet she wants you to give her something on Mother's Day. If you're one of those rare people who think she really means it when she says she doesn't want anything, stop reading this book right now and call your local mental health board.

Trust me, your mom wants something on her special day! It doesn't have to be fancy, it doesn't have to be expensive, it doesn't have to be one of a kind. Heck, it doesn't even have to be something you buy for her. (Which Anna Jarvis would no doubt appreciate.) Moms know all about tight budgets, rising costs of living, gas prices going through the roof. Sure, if you can afford something really elegant, and you think it'd be something Mom would really like, go for it. But don't blow a hole in your budget or get behind on some bills just to impress Mom. She wouldn't want that. And it's not in the least bit necessary.

But, still, a lot of people are stuck when it comes to what to get the Mom on Mother's Day. That's why I've put together this guide, to give you some ideas if you're stumped. And even if you're not stumped, you may find some ideas in here that you hadn't considered, and like better. Some of the Mother's Day gift ideas in this little book will be perfect for people who want to spend a little money on their Mom this year. Others won't cost anything (but your time). Most of them will be somewhere in between. No matter your income or budget, you're bound to find something in here that's right for your situation and your mother. There's a little something for everybody.

Take It From an Expert

So take your time and read through the whole book. It's not that long, and it's certainly not Shakespeare, but it's jam packed with great ideas for Mother's Day gifts. And, not to blow my own horn, but I'm pretty much the expert when it comes to holiday eBooks. Don't think this is the first one I've ever written. Not by a long shot. Some of my other holiday titles include ***Oktoberfest - It's Not Just For Italians, Make This Your Family's Most Unforgettable Arbor Day Ever!***, ***Flag Day Activities Even A Communist Will Love!***, and ***Let's Keep Christ In Christmas (And Hanukkah Too!)***. As you can see, I know what I'm talking about when it comes to holidays. And I think you'll find a lot of great Mother's Day ideas in here.

In addition, I've been buying Mom presents all my life, and I'm 35, so I have a little bit of experience.

And if those two facts don't convince you, consider this: not only am I 35 years old, and one of America's most celebrated holiday e-Book authors, I also live in Mom's basement! That should tell you something. How many 35 year old men do you know who still live with their Mom?

Exactly. So you know I know what I'm talking about. I mean, I'm not the perfect son, and she's not the perfect Mom, but we get along pretty good. Sure, we've had our ups and downs, but I won't bore you with the details here. (Besides, you probably know all the details anyway if you've seen the 2002 edition of ***The Best of Jerry Springer.***)

Now, honestly, who would you rather listen to when it comes to what to get Mom for Mother's Day - some guy with a wife and kids, or a celebrated 35 year old e-Book author who still lives with Mom?

Exactly. So happy reading!

Chapter 3: Mom Goes High Tech

Getting Mom "With It"

Here's an idea for Mother's Day that you might not have thought of. Why not help Mom get "with it"? Sure, I mean, obviously, our Moms are still our Moms, and can therefore never be as "groovy" or "with it" as we are, but most of them can certainly be a little more "with it" than they are right now. And, as Martha Stewart says, that's a good thing. It's one thing to have a Mom who's stuck in the 1990s. But having one who's stuck in the 1980s is a whole different story. Don't let that happen to your Mom!

Well, one of the hardest things to keep up with is the rapid pace of change in technology. I was personally reminded of this just last week when I went to Radio Shack to get a replacement part for my car's 8-track tape player. Turns out they don't make 'em anymore. (Great - I sure hope *The Bay City Rollers' Greatest Hits* is available on cassette!)

The kid who waited on me at the store also had no idea what I was talking about when I asked him how I could get my VCR player to stop blinking 12:00. At this point I realized that maybe I wasn't the ideal person to write this chapter, and so I asked the kid at Radio Shack to give me some suggestions for Mother's Day gifts. He had a lot of good ideas. Check 'em out.

It's Not Your Mother's TV Anymore

Television. Who doesn't love it? What would our lives be without it? And yet, are you aware that on February 17, 2009, the wonderful world of television will come to a screeching halt for anyone who has a TV that's several years old?

It's true.

That's the day when the Federal Communications Commission requires all TV broadcasts to switch from analog to digital. Anyone who has a TV that isn't set up for digital reception, which is the vast majority of TV sets sold until just a couple years ago, or who hasn't hooked up a converter to their old set, won't be able to watch TV.

Is your Mom's TV ready for the switch? No? Do you want to be responsible for millions of older folks rioting in the streets? Then help Mom get ready for the big day. Either get her a converter for her old set, or spring for a new one.

Heck, the government will even give you a \$40 coupon to help defray the cost of a converter if you go [here](#). Whether you go with a converter, or a brand new TV set, the important thing is that your mother won't have to face the horrible prospect of life without TV.

Radio What?

We grew up listening to it, and so did our parents. Yet the kid at Radio Shack says that lots of kids today never listen to it; most of them listen to iPods. (That gave me a great idea for a new business - a national chain of stores called *iPod Shack*. I didn't share this with the kid, of course; I don't want some young punk stealing my idea and getting rich.)

Anyway, the weird thing is, and I'm sure you've noticed, is that just about everything on the radio is geared toward kids. Rap, urban contemporary, teeny bopper, etc. Around here,

about half the stations are in Spanish now, and most of the rest are hip hop, teeny bopper, metal, country, or some political talk show guy ranting and raving about the country going to hell in a hand basket for three hours at a stretch.

And, hey, if your Mom is into a steady diet of Ashlee Simpson, *AC/DC*, *Flo Rida*, and Sean Hannity, cool. No problem; she's set. But let's face it; most Moms aren't. So why not get her a satellite radio receiver and subscription?

XM and Sirius have tons of channels so she's sure to find something she likes, and most of them are commercial free. You can get her a receiver for her car or the house. If she enjoys walking or jogging, they even make little sport receivers to wear on your arm or neck. Satellite radio is a Mother's Day gift she can enjoy the whole year.

MP3 Anyone?

Speaking of iPods, an mp3 player also makes an excellent gift. Industry experts are saying it's just a matter of time before even the compact disc, which was "the latest thing" just a few years ago, goes the way of 8 tracks, cassettes, and vinyl albums. Why not get your Mom an mp3 player and a setup with some speakers so she can enjoy the music she loves and not have to worry about the format becoming obsolete?

On top of that, there are all kinds of programs other than music available on the internet, and much of it is very interesting, and free to boot. There are all sorts of mp3 options and designs available, from dirt cheap to several hundred dollars.

Get her a player and then show her how to download the music or other programming she loves. I realize that many mothers out there are already savvy about mp3 players and downloading content, but millions of them aren't. And if your Mom is one of them, this gift could open up a fascinating new way for her to enjoy her favorite music and explore the myriad programming options available on the internet.

And don't you want your Mom to be "with it"? Of course you do.

Check out ***Moogr*** for super deals on all sorts of cool gadgets.

Chapter 4: Take Mom Out to the Ballgame?

No, silly; take her out to eat. No matter what else you do for Mom on Mother's Day, it's pretty much expected that you'll take her out for lunch or dinner. Personally, I take my Mom out for lunch every year for Mother's Day. Of course, Mom's always reluctant to order anything expensive. But I always tell her, "Aw, Mom - it's your special day! Get the *Double Quarter Pounder!*"

Let Mom Ride the Pine

Yes, giving Mom a break from the kitchen on Mother's Day is an American tradition. In fact, according to the restaurant industry, guess what is the single busiest day of the year for restaurants, year in and year out? No, not Valentine's Day, but don't feel bad if you said that - my first guess was Arbor Day. More people go out to eat on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. And if you're planning on taking Mom out to eat, you'd better start planning ahead. Like, uh, right now. And you'd best have a backup plan, or two.

See, on top of it being Mother's Day, it's also going to be a Sunday. Now, I don't know how it is where you live, but around here, just about all the restaurants in town are packed out every Sunday with the after church crowd. Not the really expensive ones, of course (we don't have a lot of Episcopalians around here), but just about everything else from nice sit down restaurants to all the fast food chains.

You can just imagine how much worse the lunch crowd will be on Mother's Day. On top of the church crowd, you'll have lots of backsliders, atheists, heathens, pagans, agnostics, and apostates taking their Moms out, too. In short, everybody and his brother are gonna be eating out that day (along with their Moms).

What's worse, most moderately priced restaurants don't take reservations. Which means you're probably going to be driving around for awhile, seeing a whole bunch of full parking lots, and then, when you finally settle on a place, looking at a long, long wait. So what to do?

Shorten Your Sunday Drive

There are a few ways around this dilemma. First, many restaurants that don't normally take reservations will take them for special days like Valentine's and Mother's Day. If you have a couple favorite restaurants in mind, call them ahead of time and see if that's their practice. Call as early as possible; if you wait until just a couple days before the big day, you're probably going to be out of luck. If you find one that will let you make a reservation, you're all set.

Just remember to call and confirm it as Mother's Day gets closer. Restaurants are notorious for losing or mistakenly canceling reservations, so take the precaution of double checking.

Second, if you can't get a reservation, or the restaurant you're interested in doesn't take them, get a head start. In most places, churches don't let out until around noon. So shoot for an early lunch and you'll greatly improve your odds. You'll probably still be facing a wait time, as plenty of other folks are doing the same thing, but it's likely to be a much shorter wait than otherwise. Of course, if you, or Mom, or both, attend church regularly, or you just don't care to eat lunch at elevenish, this won't work.

Breakfast of Champions?

Which brings us to the next option. Tell Mom to eat a hearty breakfast, and plan on hitting the restaurant in mid afternoon. That way you'll miss the lunch rush, and beat the dinner crowd. Again, you'll most likely still have to wait, but it should be a much shorter one.

Now, what if you want to take your Mom to one of the more upscale restaurants in town? Well, the biggest thing to stress here is to call the place and make your reservations as soon as possible. The more popular the restaurant, the sooner you'll need to call, probably several weeks ahead of time for the most popular eateries in town. And, again, don't forget to call and confirm.

If you're having trouble getting a reservation, you'll find, as above, that your odds will greatly improve if you're extremely flexible about what time you want to get there. If you don't mind eating around mid or late afternoon, you'll almost certainly be able to find a reservation for at least one of the fancier restaurants in town.

Taking your Mom out to eat on Mother's Day can be a hassle, but it doesn't have to be. So, unless you don't mind having to treat Mom to hot dogs and Big Gulps at the 7-11, plan ahead and be flexible, and you should be fine.

Chapter 5: Nothin' Beats Home Cookin'

That's what they say, anyway. Well, "they" obviously never tasted my ex-girlfriend's cooking. The condiments at her place weren't ketchup and mustard, they were Maalox and Pepto-Bismol.

But enough about me. What were we talking about? Oh yeah, Mother's Day.

Be It Ever So Humble...

Well, assuming that you or someone in your house besides Mom knows their way around the kitchen, and can halfway follow a recipe, there's nothing written in stone that says you have to go out to eat on Mother's Day. Sure, it's traditional, but it can be a big hassle, especially if you have a big family. It can also be quite expensive, and Mom knows how tight money is these days. The point isn't to spend money; it's to give Mom a break from the kitchen and to let her enjoy a nice meal that she didn't have to prepare herself. And making her a home cooked meal accomplishes the same thing.

There are other advantages, too. You can include the extended family, which can be tricky when eating out. Ever tried making a reservation for 23? Good luck. There are no hassles of everyone hurrying up to get ready in order to make it to the restaurant on time. Mom and others won't feel a need to get all dressed up like they would if you were going out to eat. Mom can relax and take it easy, instead of having to deal with a "social event".

On top of that, any small children involved can pitch in and lend a hand. Helping with the cooking, setting the table, being a general "gofer", and running cold drinks to the adults in the living room. This way they're a lot more involved than if they went to a restaurant, and they get the satisfaction of knowing they actually contributed on Mom's special day.

Lastly, you can cook a really great meal at home for a tiny fraction of what you'd pay for the same meal at a restaurant.

You can get free recipes online at [***Food Classics***](#). If your Mom's one of those sort of twisted types that likes home cooked meals that taste just like restaurant food, then sneak a look at [***Recipe Secrets***](#). One of these days I'm going to try it myself, and cook Mom one of those Grand Slams just like at Denny's.

You're not a cook? Afraid that if you attempted to make a meal at home the results would be disastrous? Not to worry. There are plenty of other options.

Pick Up or Take Out

More and more supermarkets prepare and sell full meals, and, depending on the store, they can sometimes be very high quality. Check in the deli section of some local supermarkets and see what they offer. You might be surprised, especially if you live near one of those increasingly popular gourmet grocery stores. For Mother's Day you'll probably have to place your order ahead of time, so be sure to check that, too.

Or maybe Mom's just crazy about a particular Chinese, barbecue or pizza place in town. Nothing says a Mother's Day meal has to come out of *Bon Appetit* magazine. If Mom loves a particular takeout restaurant, go right ahead and treat her to her favorite on her special day. No dressing up, no tipping, just call ahead and go pick it up.

Similarly, more and more fairly nice chain restaurants, even steak houses, have curbside takeout service. If you go that route, you'll want to call a couple days before and see about putting your order in ahead of time. If not, you'll have a long wait between order and pickup.

Don't get me wrong; if your Mom really wants to go out to eat, that's what you should do. But a lot of times it's not that big a deal to her, and she won't mind a bit if you cook for her, or order takeout. Just be sure that she really means it when she says it doesn't matter to her. If there's any doubt in your mind as to whether she'd actually prefer going to a restaurant, then you should go out to eat. Don't wind up in the doghouse on Mother's Day!

Chapter 6: Card Tricks

Cards are one of the easiest aspects of Mother's Day to handle. There's no excuse for blowing this. No forgetting or "I couldn't afford it". Maybe you just got laid off and can't afford to take Mom out for dinner, or get her a present. If that's the case, she'll understand. But you HAVE to get a card. No ifs, ands, or buts. She won't want to hear that you couldn't afford a card. Heck, you can get a Mother's Day card at Dollar General for fifty cents. (I don't recommend that you do, but if you're really strapped, discount stores have cards cheap.)

And even if your finances are fine, don't think a card isn't necessary because of the other stuff you do on Mother's Day. A nice present or a fancy restaurant meal doesn't replace a Mother's Day card. Most Moms will be extremely disappointed if you don't get them a card on their special day. So, no matter what else you do or don't do on Mother's Day, make darn sure you get a card!

What kind of card? Well, if you're a woman, you should be pretty good at judging what kind of card to get for you own Mom. Just select a card that you would like to receive, and there you go.

With men, it's different. We tend to pick a card that we like, and some of us can't resist a humorous card no matter what the occasion. This is not a good plan for Mother's Day. Admittedly, you don't see all that many humorous Mother's Day cards, but they are out there. Avoid them.

Double Dealing

Here's all you need to know to pick out a Mother's Day card for your wife: Pick out the gushiest, prettiest card you can find. Trust me; you can't go wrong here.

If you really want to impress her, pick out the two gushiest, prettiest cards you can find, and give them both to her. How many guys give their wives two Mother's Day cards? Not very many. Tell her that both cards expressed in unique ways how wonderful she is, and you just couldn't choose between them, so you got both. She'll think you're the greatest!

With Mom, it's pretty much the same story. Get the nicest, gushiest card you can find. That's assuming you and your Mom are close.

Know When to Hold `em

If you and your Mom have a more complicated relationship, and you feel like a card like that would come off as absolutely insincere and completely phony, don't worry. Until recently, the "you're the greatest Mom who ever lived" cards were the only kind you could find. But in the past few years, greeting card companies have wised up, and they've started creating more "realistic" cards.

Most of us are fortunate enough to have wonderful mothers with whom we've always enjoyed a close relationship. But some folks aren't so fortunate, and they have mothers who've made some bad choices in life, or who they aren't all that close to. But they still want to show Mom they love her; they just don't want to sound like a used car salesman saying a lot of things they both know aren't true. If that's your situation, look around for one of these less gushy cards

And, while you're getting a card from you, don't forget about the kids. Help them pick out something appropriate if they're too young to do it themselves, or pick one out for them. But whatever you do, do not neglect or forget to get a Mother's Day card!

Valentine's Card Ideas

[Card Fountain](#)

Send a Valentine's card from your computer.

[1000 Cards Online](#)

Send free electronic Valentine's cards.

[Big Dates](#)

Special event reminder service and free e-cards..

[Really True Cards](#)

Create a custom Valentine's card on line.

Chapter 7: What NOT to Get Your Wife for Mother's Day

A lot of men have trouble when it comes to thinking of a Mother's Day gift for their wives. They're not exactly sure what tack to take when it comes to selecting an appropriate present.

Romantic? Homey? Family oriented? All about her? Traditional? Outside the box? There's a lot to consider when trying to pick out something you think your wife will love. But there's no need to lose a lot sleep over it.

The first thing to remember is the old saying that it's the thought that counts. While this proverb is definitely overused, it still contains quite a bit of truth. If your heart's in the right place, you can't go too far wrong.

So relax. Your wife will appreciate any gift that you picked out because you thought she'd like it. It may not be the exact thing she wanted, but if it shows you put some time and thought into pleasing her, she'll love it. Which means your gift probably shouldn't come from *Dollar City*.

And, even though it should go without saying, I'm going to say it - DON'T EVER GET YOUR WIFE A GIFT THAT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HOUSEWORK.

Is that clear enough? Maybe the old vacuum cleaner is on its last legs, and a new one would make her life a lot easier. Doesn't matter. A new vacuum cleaner is NOT an appropriate Mother's Day gift. The same thing goes for dishwashers. Ditto for washers and dryers. Double Ditto for Pampers, etc.

This chapter was pretty short and sweet. In case you're ever tempted to buy your wife something "useful" for Mother's Day, just come back and reread this chapter. It could save you tens of thousands of dollars in lawyer fees, alimony, and child support payments.

Chapter 8: Expecting Expectations

If your wife is expecting your first child when Mother's Day rolls around, should you get her a gift? Uh, what do you think? Guys, I'm gonna give you three guesses and the first two don't count.

Of course you should give her something for Mother's Day. Especially if you ever hope to have any more kids with her. Heck, even if you only want to ensure you're still able to have kids, you'd better get her something, or risk a hard kick in the you know whats when the big day rolls around.

Pregnant wives don't react well when they're forgotten on Mother's Day. (I think it's a hormonal thing.) Trust me. Been there, done that. Sitting on an ice pack for three days is not nearly as fun as it sounds. But that's my job as an eBook author. I make the big mistakes so you don't have to. But you don't have to take my word for it. Pick up a copy of *The Bee Gees, the Unauthorized Biography*, if you can still find one.

Exceeding Expectations

So what kind of gift should you get for an expectant Mom? Well, it's perfectly alright to get her something romantic, and we'll cover those gifts in other chapters. But it's also a great idea to get her something that shows that you sympathize with what she's going through. Something that tells her that, although you can't trade places with her and you would if you could, you'll do what you can to make her as comfortable as possible during her pregnancy. (Work ahead of time on trying to sound really sincere when you tell her the part about how you'd trade places with her if you could. With practice, you should be able to pull it off without having her roll her eyes.)

Here are a couple suggestions. They're all great gifts for pregnant moms, and they'll really use and appreciate them.

The first one is the [Snoozer Full Body Pillow](#). It's a J shaped pillow which easily allows an expectant Mom to sleep in the position that doctors recommend for pregnant women - a semi fetal position. The hook of the J functions as the regular pillow, and the rest of it gives her support and something to hold onto as she curls up into the proper sleeping posture. Women can also use it while they're sitting, by placing it under their belly to relieve the pressure. It also makes a great nursing pillow after the baby is born. A lot of pregnant women swear by these things. They're priced from \$60 to \$209, depending on which filling you choose.

Feets Don't Fail Me Now!

Besides feeling like a whale, and morning sickness, what's one of the top complaints of pregnant women? Sore, aching feet. Which makes sense. To pack on a bunch of pounds in a few short months puts an unbelievable amount of stress on the feet. This little piggy went to market, this little piggy went "AAAAGH GET OFF ME!!!"

Now, your wife probably doesn't look like Michael Moore, but she definitely feels like him. Anything you can do to make her feet feel better will be greatly appreciated. There are several kinds of shoes available which pregnant women find more comfortable. One of the most popular is [Earth Shoes](#)

[**Earth shoes**](#) are designed so that the toes are placed at a very slight angle above the heel. They feel different, and take a couple days to get used to, but a lot of pregnant women have found them to relieve a lot of their foot pain.

Another great idea is a foot massager, or a foot massaging bath. These range in prices from \$40 up to a few hundred dollars, and there are lots of options available. Check out this [**heated foot massager**](#) with remote control.

Your expectant wife will love any of these gifts. It's also hard to go wrong with a [**gift for the baby**](#) - mobiles, baby clothes, a [**journal**](#) or [**scrapbook**](#) for Mom that will one day become a family keepsake. And, of course, on top of all these suggestions for gifts for pregnant Moms, there are a ton of other possibilities.

Now that you've got the basic idea, take it and run with it, or just go with one of the above gifts. But whatever you do, don't forget your pregnant wife on Mother's Day!

Chapter 9: Food for Thought

Alright, let's get right into the heart of why I wrote this book - to give you a lot of different gift ideas for Mother's Day you probably hadn't thought about, or may not have been aware of. Let's face it, many of us, especially guys, haven't been real creative in the past when it comes to selecting Mother's Day gifts.

Until recently, I had the same problem, and tended to get my own Mom the same thing every year. Of course, Mom was real good about it, and every year she would swear up and down it's the nicest necktie she's ever seen, but I had a nagging feeling I could do better.

And then I heard about the internet. Wow! That really opened up a lot of possibilities I'd never considered, and Mom hasn't gotten a necktie for Mother's Day in over three years! And after reading this guide, you'll be just as amazed as I was at all the different gifts you can get your Mom. So let's jump right in.

They say the way to a man's stomach is through his heart, or something like that. Well, women have stomachs, too, and a lot of them love to cook, and they often have a particular favorite cuisine, or they love to experiment and try new things. Or maybe they don't love to cook, but they enjoy eating specialty and gourmet foods. Anyway, here's a little "taste" (LOL, I crack myself up!) of the wide array of excellent gifts available for the Julia Child types out there.

Check out ***Asian Food Grocer***. Asian cuisine is becoming increasingly popular all over the country, and ***Asian Food Grocer*** has tons of authentic selections for anyone who loves to eat and/or cook Asian food. Like Organic Maradaizu Soy Sauce, Minokuni Buckwheat Noodles, Youki Wei Yu, and a bunch of other stuff I can't pronounce and have never heard of. If your wife or Mom is into Asian cuisine, and you'd like to get some authentic products from Asia, this is your one stop shop.

My Secret Pantry is another gem when it comes to shopping for foodie wives and Moms. It has tons of unique, high quality, hard to find items used in making gourmet meals at home. Things like gourmet BBQ sauces, specialty rubs, kitchen organizers, convection ovens, European style "capresso" coffee makers, etc.

By the way, this is one time when it's OK to ignore the rule about not buying your wife anything that has to do with housework. If she's a foodie or a gourmet cook, it's not work, it's a hobby, and she'll love any gadget or tool for the kitchen.

Does Mom have a wheat allergy? More and more people are being diagnosed as allergic to wheat, and, since flour is used in just about every sort of prepared food, it can be difficult to find foods that are gluten free. It's true that more and more grocery stores are stocking some gluten free products, but they generally don't have much of a selection, and in many cases the taste leaves a lot to be desired.

Well, if your Mom or wife has a wheat allergy, and she has trouble finding good foods that don't contain wheat, check out ***Gluten Free***. You'll be amazed at the selection - mixes for bagels, pancakes and waffles, pizza crusts, frosting, breads, cookies, and muffins. They also carry ready to eat breads, cakes, cookies, dough nuts, energy bars, and a wide assortment of pastas, and even complete meals. You're sure to find lots of different items that someone with a wheat allergy would love for a Mother's Day gift.

Beef and pork and poultry are great, but every aspiring or accomplished cook wants to try new things from time to time. Often it can be hard to find any meat besides the big three. Not

anymore! Here's a great place to shop for gifts for the true gourmet with an adventurous spirit, **Fossil Farms**.

The Other Other White Meat

Ostrich meat, anyone? How about emu? What wine goes with Himalayan yak? Is rattlesnake best prepared grilled, or fried? Turtle, alligator, squab (squab?), duck, pheasant, rabbit, elk antelope, wild boar...all that and more can be found at **Fossil Farms**. And it's all natural and farm raised. Not sure if they offer *Emu Helper*, but if your wife or Mom loves cooking with exotic meats, **Fossil Farms** would be a great place shop for Mother's Day.

In many cities all over America, more and more Indian restaurants are springing up, and some of them are becoming quite popular. Until recently, many Americans had never tasted the cuisine of India, but it's obvious that it's rapidly making its mark here. It's quite unlike American food, and often very spicy. For Moms who like Indian cuisine, or just love to experiment in the kitchen, **Indian Blend** is a great source for a surprising and unique gift for Mother's Day. They carry over 1300 items, from spices to drinks to breads to baby foods to chutney to you name it. Check it out and see what you think.

Filet mignon. Porterhouse. New York strip. T-bone. Top sirloin. Prime rib. Getting hungry yet? There's nothing quite like a good steak or filet, and if you want a really excellent cut, there's nothing quite like Certified Angus Beef. How would you like to treat your wife or Mom to an exquisite meal made from America's finest beef? If that sounds like a Mother's Day gift she'd love, visit **Wilson & Wilson** for a mouth watering selection of choice hand-cut Certified Angus steaks and filets. They're shipped (with dry ice) frozen right to your door, ready to cook or go in the freezer, and each one comes in a gift box. **Wilson & Wilson** have various combinations and specials, so if you can't make up your mind, you can go with one of those. Why not skip the restaurant outing this year and fire up the grill?

Is your Mom a seafood lover? Then you won't go wrong if you order a Mother's Day gift from **All Fresh Seafood**. This is no ordinary seafood business. All Fresh supplies the seafood to over 400 restaurants in the New York City and New Jersey area. They've been written up in *Maxim* magazine, *Zagat* surveys, and the *New York Daily News*. And the selection is unbelievable - Golden Trout, Mediterranean Branzini, Portuguese Sardines, Red Snapper, Striped Bass are all available whole. You can get steaks and filets in Alaskan Coho / King Salmon Fillets, Canadian Farmed Salmon Fillets, Canadian Farmed Salmon Steak, Salmon Burgers, Chilean Sea Bass Fillet, Costa Rican Tilapia Fillets, Hawaiian Ahi Tuna Steak, New England Cod Fillets, New England Flounder Fillets, Fluke Fillet, North Atlantic Scrod Fillet, Red Snapper Fillet, Swordfish Steak, Mahi-Mahi Fillets, Halibut, Wild Alaskan Coho/King Salmon Fillet. There's lots more here - smoked fish, caviar, shellfish, etc. And **All Fresh Seafood** has not only gotten a lot of press, they were also featured in the Best of New York issue of *New York* magazine. A Mother's Day gift from here will make a seafood lover very, very happy.

New York State of Mind?

Can't take Mom to New York this year? How about trying the next best thing? Lox isn't for me, and it's not for a lot of people, but folks who like lox tend to LOVE it. Lox can be hard to find, and pricey. Well, guess what I found? The **Lox Box**, which enables you to make lox yourself, right in the comfort of your own home.

The **Lox Box** only costs around \$30, and comes with five pouches of secret curing ingredients that turn a \$5 salmon into a \$25 piece of lox. You simply put in a little salt, sugar and

spices, put the salmon fillet in the secret ingredient pouch, put the pouch in the box, and toss the **Lox Box** in the fridge, and two days later you've got yourself some genuine lox. The box itself is reusable, and refill curing pouches are priced quite reasonably.

So you'd love to skip the whole going out to eat on Mother's Day thing, and you'd much rather prepare your Mom a gourmet meal at home, but you can't even boil an egg? No worries bud. I've got just what you're looking for.

There are companies that will ship you (on dry ice) complete gourmet meals, ready for you to cook, with easy instructions that you can follow even if all you know how to do in the kitchen is bake a frozen pizza. Sound too good to be true? Well, it's not. And wait til you get a load of some of the meals you can order.

How about Beef Wellington with Lamb Skewers? How about Smoky Tomato Lamb with Duck Spring Rolls and Brie and Onion Tartlets? Or Filet Mignon with Pear and Roquefort Stars and Spinach and Artichoke Tarts? You can have any of these chef prepared meals delivered right to your door by the chefs at **Artiko**.

Another place where you can order gourmet meals and have them delivered right to your house ready to toss in the over is **Gourmet Station**. They also offer three and four course meals, and they've even been featured on *Good Morning America*.

How would Mom like a Mother's Day meal of Romano boule, Florentine soup, Italian wedding soup, chicken Saltimboca, baked salmon, Tuscan veggies, Cappuccino cheesecake, Euro coffee? Would your wife enjoy baguettes, mushroom soup, tomato basil soup, salmon en Croute, chicken Montrachet, creamy spinach, Amaretto cheesecake & Euro coffee? Bet she would! And **Gourmet Station** has a lot more meals to choose from, or you can create your own. (Man, I'm starting to feel sorta guilty about taking Mom to the Tasty Freeze!)

Chapter 10: Flowers for Mom

Believe it or not, one popular and traditional Mother's Day gift is flowers. It's true. I looked it up on the internet. Of course, if you're a female, you have no trouble believing this. But if you're a dude, it's a real head scratcher.

What's up with women and flowers? Why do they love them so much? Guys couldn't care less about flowers, unless you're a guy who likes other guys, and then it's kind of expected. (And, for the record, I HATE FLOWERS! Seriously. Can't stand 'em.)

But women just can't get enough of flowers, and they love getting them for presents. I don't pretend to understand this phenomenon myself, or expect you to understand it. It's a mystery. Kinda like that whole *Oprah* thing. You ever actually sit down and watch that show? Ugh. I don't know why, but women are just crazy about that show, and it's obviously geared for women only. And *The View*? It's even worse. It's so feminine it's like *Oprah* on steroids!

Sorry. Got sorta of off track there. Where were we? Oh yeah. Flowers. Women love 'em. Always have and always will. You pretty much can't go wrong by giving flowers on Mother's Day. You might want to get something else, too, but that's up to you. And flowers are easy.

Delivered Fresh to Mom's Door

If Mom lives in the same town as you do, just drop by a florist and pick some up. If you don't know what kind of flowers to get, they'll have lots of suggestions for Mother's Day favorites. But what if Mom lives in Omaha? Well, I guess she's just out of luck then, huh? Nah, I'm just kidding. Thanks to the magic of the internet, you can now have flowers sent to Mom no matter where she lives. Even Terre Haute, believe it or not. Here are several places where you can have flowers delivered to Mom on her special day.

One popular internet florist is ***de la Flowers***. They have a wide selection, including around forty choices for under \$30. They also have wreathes, bamboo, bonsai, potted plants, etc. Besides plants and flowers, they also carry gourmet chocolates and nuts, cheesecakes, gift baskets, and premium meats and seafood. Just perfect for the Mom's who's a flower lover, chocoholic, and carnivore!

Check out ***Neo Flowers***. Their motto is "Fresh Flowers for Less", and their prices are very good. They don't offer chocolates or meats, but they do have lots of different lilies, roses, plants and bouquets at nice prices. They also advise the Republican Party on foreign policy arrangements. Give 'em a look, and you might find something you'd like.

Another great site to shop for flowers is ***Beyond Blossoms***. As their name implies, they have more than just flowers.

Green Thumbs Up

Does your Mom have a green thumb? Mine does. Unfortunately, Mom's is sort of permanent. In a way, it's sorta my fault... she teaches Sunday school for third graders and she asked me to help out with an Easter Egg coloring party she threw for them. I didn't know you're supposed to use food coloring, not real dye. But the dermatologist says if she scrubs it every day it should be back to normal by next Easter!

But I still feel partially responsible, and I'm going to make it up to her - next year, when I take her out to eat on Mother's Day, I'm going to insist that she get the Super Size fries. (I'd take her out to eat this year, but everybody stares at her thumb, which really embarrasses me.)

Anyway, if you've got a wife or Mom who loves to raise plants, but doesn't have the outdoor space to do it, you should consider getting her an **AeroGarden**. With an **AeroGarden**, she can grow fresh herbs and vegetables right on her kitchen counter. It's a pretty cool little box that contains no soil, but uses hydroponic technology, incorporating liquid nutrients and special lighting.

She'll be able to grow chives, dill, mint, parsley, cilantro, etc. And it's virtually hassle free - according to the site, a person only needs to attend to the **AeroGarden** between 2 and 5 minutes a week. Which leaves plenty of time to watch *Oprah* (or scrub her thumb). Can't beat that. And the herbs keep growing for months. Best of all, you can order it on a trial basis and only pay shipping and handling at first. Check it out!

How about house plants? They make a great gift, and they last a lot longer than fresh cut flowers. Maybe your wife or Mom has enough yard room for a small garden and would like to start one, or add to the one she already has. If that's the case, then check out **Nature Hills Nursery**. They've got fruit trees, plants, shrubs, plants, bushes, bulbs, vines, ferns, etc. If you can plant it, **Nature Hills** probably has it. They even sell lawn grass! It's a nature lover's delight, and a gift from them would bring Mom years of happiness.

Chapter 11 Even More Gift Ideas

Dinner and flowers are fine gifts. They're traditional and your Mom will surely appreciate them. But there's no law that says you have to give a dinner or flowers. And many people like to take Mom out to eat and give her a separate gift, but want to go with something besides flowers this year. If that describes you, read on. This chapter and the next are just what you need.

First, how about a bouquet? Huh? Yeah, I know I just wrote a chapter about flowers, and I just finished telling you that I was going to show you some non-flower gift ideas. Well, listen up Little Miss Smarty Pants, because I'm talking about a bouquet of gourmet cookies.

Tasty Bouquet

Hah! Faked you out, didn't I? Well, check out ***Gourmet Cookie Bouquets***. They've got a wide array of delicious cookie bouquets and baskets. And for the obsessive/compulsive types out there (and you know who you are) who are really hung up on the flower thing, many of their cookies are even shaped like flowers.

"Yeah, well, Mr. Know It All E-book Author, my mom happens to be diabetic." What, you think I didn't think of that? Well, I did, and it just so happens that they offer sugar free cookies, too. (You really thought you had me, didn't you?)

Another fine company is ***Cookie Garden***, although I can't find any sugar free cookies on their site. But they do have fruit and gift baskets in addition to gourmet cookies.

Cookies don't really cut it for Mom but you still want to go with a food gift? No problem. Who ya gonna call? Why, the ***Wisconsin Cheeseman***, of course.

There's a reason The ***Cheeseman*** has been around since 1946 and he's still going strong. It's because of the delicious high quality products he delivers all over the country. Sausages and other meats. Jams, jellies, and mustard. Chocolates and baked goods. Fruits and nuts. (And, oh yeah, cheese.) Pick your own items, or go with one of their popular gift boxes or baskets. You're sure to find something Mom likes on their mouth watering website.

Spice Up Mother's Day

Want to really spice up your Mom's Mother's Day celebration? Then head on over to ***Salsa Express***, Purveyors of Fine Gourmet and Fiery Foods. They've got salsa for every taste level from mild to blazing. And not just salsas. They carry soup and dip mixes, rubs and spices, snacks and chocolates, hot sauces, BBQ sauces, olives, mustards, ketchups, and dipping sauces, vinegars, and preserves and jellies. Basically everything from soup to nuts (well, except for nuts). If you can't decide which salsa is right for mom, why not try several with their *Fredericksburg Sampler*?

Is your Mom, or your wife, a gourmet coffee lover? Gotta have her Starbucks fix every day? What's a small cup of one of their coffees go for these days, around 15 bucks? Well, why not give Mom a gift she'll love by heading on over to ***Boca Java***? Their motto is *For the Caffeine Fiend In Your Life*.

Actually, no it isn't. I just made that up. Their real motto is "the best cup of coffee you'll ever taste", which doesn't mean a whole lot to me, because I don't drink coffee, but coffee lovers tend to be fanatical in their pursuit of The Perfect Cup of Coffee. And if your wife or Mom is a

coffee lover, she'll no doubt be thrilled to experience some new tastes, and she may well decide that she's finally discovered the best tasting coffee in the whole world.

Of course, it may not be the most expensive coffee in the world. That's Kopi Luwak, which costs from \$120 to \$600 a pound, and it's harvested from cat poop. Seriously. You can look up Kopi Luwak on Wikipedia and and verify it. Here's what you'll find:

Kopi Luwak (pronounced ['kopi 'luwak]) or Civet coffee is coffee made from coffee berries which have been eaten by and passed through the digestive tract of the Asian Palm Civet (Paradoxurus hermaphroditus). The civets eat the berries, but the beans inside pass through their system undigested. This process takes place on the islands of Sumatra, Java and Sulawesi in the Indonesian Archipelago, and in the Philippines (where the product is called Kape Alamid). Vietnam has a similar type of coffee, called weasel coffee, which are coffee berries which have been defecated by local weasels. In actuality the "weasel" is just the local version of the Asian Palm Civet. Kopi Luwak is the most expensive coffee in the world, selling for between \$120 and \$600 USD per pound, and is sold mainly in Japan and the United States.

See, I told ya. Now, aren't you glad you clicked on this e-book? Where else can you learn interesting stuff like that? That little gem right there might make you a couple thousand dollars on *Jeopardy* one of these days!

Maybe Mom's more of a tea person. Well, you're in luck, because I found a couple great sources for gourmet Asian teas, none of which have ever passed through any big cat's alimentary canals. The first site is **Tea Pot Mart**. They sell a wide variety of specialty Chinese teas. And, as you might've guessed from the name, they also sell a bunch of different teapots. And, while I'm no teapot aficionado, I have to say that some of their teapots are really something to look at. Browse their site and I think you'll agree, and you'll probably find one that Mom would love.

Another great tea website is **Mellow Monk Teas**. They offer green teas grown on small, family owned farms in Japan. They say green tea is very good for you, so shop at **Mellow Monk** and maybe Mom will be around to celebrate a lot more Mother's Days!

If Mom enjoys a fine wine, you could get her a bottle or two of her favorite. And that would be a nice, thoughtful gift. But if you really want to impress her, sign Mom up for the Wine of the Month club over at **Cellars Wine**. Every month she'll get two bottles of excellent wine delivered right to her door via UPS.

They have 8 different clubs to choose from - Premium, International, West Coast, Platinum, 90 +, High End, Champagne, and Case. So there's a lot to choose from. They've been described as a "hottest" gift on *Good Morning America*. And shipping is only two bucks. Even better, shipping is free to commercial addresses. So if your Mom happens to live at a place of business, it's a really great deal! (Unfortunately, if you live in Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, or Utah, you're out of luck. They don't ship to those states. But you can always do what I do, and get Mom a bottle of *Night Train*.)

What, What Not & Such

Boy, do women love stores that sell whatnots? You know, the kind of stores that sell little doodads and trinkets and whose name always end in "& Such"? They sure do. In fact, I think a chain of stores called *Whatnots & Such* would make the founder the richest man in the world. Many women can't get enough of that stuff.

If the lady you're buying for is like that, consider getting her a gift basket this Mother's Day. One good place to shop for gift baskets is **Holiday Gifts and Gift Baskets**. Personally, I think

they would triple their business overnight if they changed the name to *Holiday Gifts and Gift Baskets & Such*, but it's their business and they can do what they want. Anyway, they've got over 30 different gift baskets for Mother's Day alone.

Another good source is ***Givens & Company***. (Hey, what about *Givens & Company & Such*?! A name with two ampersands would make women flip! I'm gonna email 'em.) G&C has a great selection, too. Wine baskets, chocolate baskets, fruits and organic baskets, gourmet food baskets, etc. Even a basket full of ampersands! Nah, I'm just kiddin' there. Both gift basket companies have something that's sure to please your wife or Mom. Browse the sites and I think you'll agree.

Chapter 12: Jewels, Jewels, Jewels

Do women love jewelry? Is the Pope Italian? (Actually, I should probably double check that. I'll look it up later just to make sure.) You show me a woman who doesn't love jewelry and I'll show you a dude. I'm serious. If your wife doesn't love jewelry you're probably married to a female impersonator and don't know it. The same goes double for Mom. And make no mistake, that sort of thing does happen; there's a famous book about it called *M. Butterfly*. Check it out if you don't believe me.

The "wife" even had a baby! And the husband swore he had no idea he was married to a dude. So if your wife doesn't love jewelry, you'd better have her go in for DNA testing just to be on the safe side. Of course, if it turns out she's really a dude that would be a bummer. But look on the bright side - she could always try out for the Bulgarian Women's Olympic team.

I'm just messin with ya! I don't think your wife and Mom are really dudes. I was just using a hypodermical example to make a point - women love jewelry. Get 'em some for Mother's Day, and you'll make your Mom or your wife a very happy lady. And I've searched the internet and come up with a bunch of sources for beautiful and unique jewelry, along with some other related stuff.

Hidden Gems

For fine gemstones from around the world, check out *Rio Gems* of Beverly Hills. (Say, I wonder if they know the Clampetts?) Their gorgeous gemstones are personally hand selected and also inspected and approved by an independent 3rd party gemologist. Their buyers travel all over the world, going to places like Russia, China, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, (but not Terre Haute) to purchase their gemstones. They also manufacture their own jewelry and can custom make you a piece especially for your wife or Mom.

Pearls - possibly the most exquisite necklace a woman can wear. Pearls have been highly sought after and treasured since the beginning of time. (Did you know they come from oysters? I just read that the other day on the back of one of my nephews' cereal boxes. Frankly, that's just plain disgusting.)

Nevertheless, pearls have always fascinated mankind. Even in the Bible we read about the Pearly Gates and the pearl of great price, and are told not to cast our pearls before swine. And some of the best loved women in American show business have been named Pearl - Minnie Pearl, Pearl Bailey, Pearl Harbor, etc. So you can't go wrong with pearls on Mother's Day. And you can get your wife or Mom some high quality pearls at *Mermaid Pearls*. Every item sold comes with a 30 day money back guarantee, all orders over \$100 get free shipping, orders over \$150 get a free bonus gift, and all orders are exquisitely gift wrapped.

A Gift from the Islands

How about taking Mom to Hawaii this year for Mother's Day? Wouldn't that be something? Of course, you probably can't afford such an extravagance, so why not do the next best thing and get Mom some really unique jewelry from *Hawaii City*?

Offering heirloom Hawaiian jewelry, *Hawaii City* has been in business since 1907. They've got some really beautiful jewelry - rings, pendants, bracelets, watches, toe rings, earrings, and diamond rings. They also have some really neat non-jewelry stuff with really weird names, like puka shells, koa wood, and something called and Ikaika helmet, which is not a helmet at all, but a

decorative piece featuring a tiny warrior mask. When you visit the site, be sure to check out the helmets.

Sure, we'd all love to take Mom to Hawaii, but how many of us can afford it? My Mom's always wanted to go, but there's no way I can afford two plane tickets to Hawaii. I went there last year, and would've loved to take Mom along, but then I would've had to fly coach. But I did send her a bunch of postcards! Now I wish I'd got her one of those helmets.

Diamonds are a girl's best friend (especially if she ever needs to borrow money in a hurry from a pawn shop.) You certainly can't go wrong buying diamonds for your wife or Mom on Mother's Day. If you don't believe me, just ask her yourself. And if you're looking for a diamond gift, there's no better place to visit than **[Diva Diamonds](#)**.

They've got rings, earrings, pendants, pins, necklaces, and brooches. All orders over \$250 come with a free Tiffany style sterling silver bracelet, to boot. In addition, all orders come with a certificate of authenticity, free gift wrapping, a free gift box, and a free gift card with your own message. Besides, diamonds, they also offer gemstones and pearls. And everything is backed by a 21 day guarantee policy. So go visit **[Diva Diamonds](#)** and see what they've got.

Hand Crafted by Arizonans

For some really gorgeous, one of a kind jewelry pieces, check out **[Arizona Indian Jewelry](#)**. You really have to see these pieces to appreciate just how beautiful they are. All their jewelry is hand crafted by Native American artisans and each piece is a work of art. They've got necklaces, pendants, bracelets, earrings, anklets, silver chains, belt buckles, etc.

You can also get sand paintings, Kachina dolls, and something a lot of women really love, dream catchers. If you've never heard of Kachina dolls, they're tiny figurines, carved usually out of pine or cottonwood, and decorated in traditional Native American style. They're really cool; don't miss them when you visit the website.

How about a lovely way of telling your wife you'd marry her all over again? Nothing could be more appropriate on Mother's Day than telling the mother of your children how glad you are that she married you. And there's no better way of expressing that sentiment than with an engraved ring from **[Wedding Vow Rings](#)**.

You can order a ring with your wedding vows engraved on them, or a Bible verse. Or, if you'd like, you can send in a ring and they'll engrave it for you. Their rings come in 14K white gold, yellow gold, platinum, or titanium. They have around 150 messages to choose from to have engraved on your ring, or you can create a custom message. A gift from **[Wedding Vow Rings](#)** would be a very romantic way of celebrating Mother's Day. And who knows, your wife might be so thrilled that in nine months she'll be a Mom all over again!

For a very wide selection of all sorts of jewelry for Mother's Day, be sure to visit **[Jewels of Denial](#)**. Yeah, it's a silly name, but they've got some really nice stuff. Along with the usual selection of rings, bracelets, earrings, pendants, etc., they've also got a lot of things you won't find at most jewelers. Aquamarine jewelry, pink jewelry, bead jewelry, dolphin and animal jewelry, butterfly and flower jewelry, and lots more. Be sure to check out their stackable rings. Everything is very reasonably priced, too.

Seeking Something Unique?

Ever heard of Lapis Lazuli? "Lapis Lazuli? You talking about that guy who works at the 7-11?" No, no, no. Lapis Lazuli is a semi-precious stone prized for its intense blue color. It's been mined in Afghanistan for thousands of years, and has even turned up in pre-dynastic Egyptian archaeological sites. Well, one of the best places to buy this stunning jewelry is [**Lapis Lazuli World**](#), right here on the world wide web.

If you've never seen this particular kind of jewelry, you need to head over there and see for yourself just how beautiful it is. They carry lapis lazuli in all sorts of jewelry pieces, and you're sure to find something for your wife or Mom. All orders over \$75 are shipped free in the US by First Class Mail, and all online orders receive a nice discount, even on sale prices.

Maybe you're thinking to yourself "Wow, this E-book author guy is really sharp and he's really got a lot on the ball and he's right that jewelry would make a great Mother's Day gift, but jewelry is expensive, and I'm kind of a cheap you know what." Well, I've got you covered.

Whether you're on a tight budget, or just a plain ol' skinflint, you can still get your wife or Mother some jewelry for Mother's Day. Just go to [**Overstock Jewelry**](#). I'm not sure why it's called Overstock, because it's mostly cubic zirconium and copies of famous designers like Tiffany, but they're upfront about it, and it won't cost you much. And if you can buy your wife a Tiffany knockoff or a CZ ring for Mother's Day and still sleep at night, well, you go right ahead, mister.

A Whiff of Good Scents

Do you want your wife or Mom to smell good? Who doesn't? Of course, that wasn't always the case. Back in the olden days, before air conditioning and running water, pretty much everyone stunk to high heaven, so it wasn't a problem. But these days, not giving off any offensive smells is critical and smelling good can be a person's ticket to all the right social circles.

Imagine life among the beautiful people, flitting from one party to another, with everyone commenting on your wonderful odor! Wouldn't you like that for your wife or Mom? Of course you would. Well, now you can make it happen for her, and give her a Mother's Day present to boot.

Whether your wife or Mom smells really bad, or you'd just like her to smell a little better, check out [**Parfum Parfum**](#) and [**Scented Monkey**](#). Both sites have a ton of things to make your wife or Mom smell good. And don't think that perfume isn't an acceptable present for Mother's Day. It's fine. In fact, every year for Christmas Mom puts deodorant in my stocking. And you can trust Mom to know what's acceptable or not!

Is your wife or Mom into organics, saving the Earth, and being at one with nature? I'm not really into that stuff, myself. At one with the universe? Heck, I don't even have cable TV. And as far as I'm concerned "organic" is just a fancy way of saying "costs too much and tastes horrible". But a lot of women are into that stuff, and if your Mom is, you should check out [**Bohemia Style**](#).

According to their website, "[**Bohemia Style**](#) takes pride in bringing you authentic organic cosmetics, handcrafted wool garments, home decor and artisan works, made of the finest natural materials." You know, stuff like cosmetics made from emu oil or donkey milk (I'm not making this up) and grape therapeutic beauty products, and last but not least, snail serum and snail extract products. I swear, I'm NOT making this up. They've got some halfway normal products, too. It's interesting, to say the least, and if your wife or Mom is a recovering hippie or still living in the 1960s, you might find something nice for her at [**Bohemia Style**](#).

Trends are Up

Is your wife or Mom a trend setter? Or more of a trend follower? Doesn't matter; no matter where she fits in on the trend spectrum (or how she smells for that matter) you'll find something for her at ***All Things Trendy***. Especially if she likes nice purses or things made of crystal. Because, despite the name, ***All Things Trendy*** basically sells hand bags and things made of crystal. (Wouldn't *Handbags & Crystal & Such* be a much better name?)

But there's no denying that they have a lot of really nice stuff. Evening bags, coin purses, fashion totes, etc. And as far as crystal, if it comes in crystal, they've probably got it. Belt buckles, brooches, business card cases, desk accessories, hair accessories, (hair accessories? Is that like dandruff or something?) Keepsake boxes, key chains, lipstick boxes, money clips, pill boxes, purse hangers, and writing pens. Whew. That's a lotta crystal! About the only thing I don't see over there is Crystal Pepsi.

Want some really personalized jewelry? Then head on over to ***Pictures On Gold***, where you can get not only custom engraved jewelry, but jewelry pieces with a photo. And these photos aren't just pasted on with Elmer's Glue; they use laser technology. You can choose from a head shot, a mid body shot, or a full body photo. They've got all sorts of things to choose from, like charms, bracelets, religious jewelry, etc. Photo jewelry is a really unique gift. In fact, Mom ordered a bracelet from them with my picture on it. She said that way she could guarantee no one would ever steal it. Aw, Mom! You're gonna make me cry!

(By the way, if your wife does happen to turn out to be a dude, don't blame yourself. It can happen to anyone. My wife turned out to be a dude, which I discovered on our wedding night. Of course, I filed for divorce immediately, on the basis of irreconcilable similarities. None of that Massachusetts stuff for me!)

Chapter 13: Something Unique?

Alright, here it is, the penultimate chapter of our long night's journey into buying gifts for Mother's Day. Boy, time flies so fast when you're having fun, huh? And, as Mom says, even when you're reading one of my famous e-Books! What we've got here in this chapter is a bunch of stuff that didn't really fit into any of the other categories, but is still pretty cool. Let's jump right in.

Gift baskets will never be the same! That's what it says right at the top of the homepage of ***Design It Yourself Gifts & Baskets***. And I believe 'em. And you know they're savvy business people because they've got that all important ampersand! Yeah, I know I've talked about gift baskets before, but those were food related. ***Design It Yourself*** has food baskets, too, but they've got all kinds of other baskets, and the best part is that you can choose what goes in them yourself.

You know your Mom or wife best, so who better to fill a basket for them than you? I may order Mom a basket, depending on if they have the gifts I've got in mind for her - a gift certificate from *Bass Pro Shops*, a subscription to *Sports Illustrated* and *ESPN Magazine*, and an Anna Kournikova calendar. I've got my fingers crossed!

Wanna celebrate Mother's Day and help save the rain forest at the same time? Well, guess what? You're already doing it! By reading an e-Book. We could've chopped down a lot of trees and put this guide out on paper, but we're very eco-conscious and take seriously our obligations to maintain the fragile balance of life on this planet. (Also, publishing a real book would've cost money.)

But you still want to do more? And Mom's kind of one of those Al Gore nuts? Well, I've got just the thing for you. Thanks to ***Rainforest Forever***, you can buy an actual tree in the Amazon Rain Forest. Once purchased, the tree is guaranteed to never be destroyed or commercially exploited. When you buy a tree, you get proof of ownership, and the GPS location of the actual tree. Pretty neat, huh? And best of all, it's only three thousand dollars. Nah, not really. It's about 50 bucks. Check it out right now! Chop, Chop!

Reach for the Stars

Buying a tree for your wife or Mom would be pretty cool, but if you really want an out of this world gift that's truly one of a kind, and of galactic proportions to boot, how about naming a star after Mom? No, I'm not talking about John Cougar Melonhead or P.Diddy, or Elizabeth Taylor or any other of those "stars" that change their name about every three years. Not that kind of star. A real one. You know, like the moon? Yeah, that kinda star. Yes, you can actually name a star after Mom, and have it placed in the ***International Star Registry***.

(Mom says there's a planet named after me - Uranus. And then she laughs, which I don't understand at all. Mom's got a very strange sense of humor!)

Does your Mom sometimes have trouble remembering her name? Then why not get her a personalized gift from ***A Gift Personalized***? They have all kinds of gifts which can be personalized with Mom's name, like coffee mugs, jewelry items, photo frames, key chains, travel gear, wine accessories, etc. That way, the next time she's thinking to herself "what was my name again?" she can pick up her personalized cigar box and go "oh yeah, that's it". Sure beats having to dig through her purse for her driver's license!

Speaking of purses, women love those things. They can't have just one. That would never do. (Of course, I understand. I've got several Anna Kournikova calendars, so I have no room to talk.) Fashions in purses are always changing, thanks to the nitwits in New York City and Hollyweird, California. And the most fashionable purses always cost a lot of money.

But they don't have to! Well, actually, the real ones do. But why not get Mom a purse that's "inspired" by the latest hot designer? They look just as good, and you save a bundle of money. Just go to ***AnyKnockOff***. Sure, they're not the real thing, but why should you have to pay several hundred dollars for a nice purse just because it's got some French weirdo's name on it? They also carry "inspired" jewelry, sunglasses, and other items. They're not counterfeits; they don't have the designer label or anything like that. They're just "value priced" knockoffs!

We've already discussed the importance of your wife or Mom smelling good. Well, it's just as important, especially to them, that they look their best. And there's a line of makeup products designed especially for women forty and older. You've probably heard of Lauren Hutton, who used to be a Hollywood nitwit herself. But at some point she decided to get a real life and do something useful for humanity, and she created her own line of beauty products. You can find them at ***Lauren Hutton Makeup***, where else? They're very popular, and she's not a French weirdo, so check 'em out.

Buy American

Does your wife or Mom ever use housewares? From my intensive research online, I gather that most adult women do. But finding quality housewares is getting to be more and more difficult. Just try to find housewares that weren't made in China at the average store in America. Good luck. But if you go to ***Bromwell Housewares*** you'll find a ton of quality items for the home made right here in America.

Their website says they're the oldest 100% American manufacturing company. They started in the early 1900's, and they're based in Michigan. They've got some really neat stuff like fireplace accessories, sifters, tin drinking cups, popcorn poppers, portable grills, baking supplies, etc. Get Mom a gift from ***Bromwell*** and you'll not only help her meet her all important household needs, but you'll also be supporting American jobs.

This one could've gone in the food section (actually, it should've, but I forgot, and I don't really feel like going back and editing that part), but here it is in the unique section. Is your wife or Mom a fruit lover? Well, what better gift to give her than a monthly delivery of exquisite, high quality fruit from ***The Fruit Company***?

Twelve times a year Mom will be reminded of how much you love her when the UPS man rolls up to replenish her papayas and kumquats. That's if you sign her up for the ***Exotic Fruit Club***, which includes other things like starfruit, kiwi, passion fruit, pomegranates, persimmons, blood oranges, mangos, etc.

In the ***Harvest Club***, for more mainstream tastes, it's stuff like oranges, pears, grapefruits, apples, pineapples, blueberries, cherries, etc. Mom will get one kind of fruit per month. They also have one time gifts like fruit baskets and towers, along with delicious desserts.

Still Puzzled?

Nothing strikes your fancy so far? You just can't figure out the missing piece of the puzzle when it comes to what to buy for Mom? Well then, why not turn Mom herself into a jigsaw puzzle? Excuse me? No, I most certainly am NOT some kind of twisted serial killer! I'm talking

about photo puzzles, you sicko. Man, I swear...you people are really starting to get on my nerves. Yeah. Yeah. Just keep pushin' me...

Anyway, check out **[Jigsaw2Order](#)**. Send in any photograph of your wife or Mom and they'll turn it into a custom made jigsaw puzzle for the whole family to enjoy. You can choose from different sizes, and have a puzzle made with up to 1500 pieces. Of course your mom might prefer a picture puzzle of the grand kids or her pooch, so give it some thought.

Candles. Women love 'em. They can speak of romance on a date, or elegance at a dinner party. In fact, Mom and I recently shared a candlelight dinner. She wanted to know if this was going to be a regular thing from now on and I'm like "Mother, I told you. I'll pay the light bill first thing in the morning. So just drop it."

Women...

Anyway, women love candles. And they make great Mother's Day Gifts. You can find a ton of them for sale at **[Discount Candle](#)**. They've got tapered candles, tealights, floating candles, pillars, wedding candles, novelty candles, candle holders, seasonal candles, religious candles, etc. They also have candle making supplies for the Mom who'd like to make her own.

Plus, while you're there, why not kill two birds with one stone? November will be here before you know it, so why not go ahead and order Mom a votive candle for Election Day?

Time to get the animals in Mom's life in order? Try giving her one of the many pet training courses that are available online.

My Mom threatens to start building up the cat collection again as soon as I move out. She'll need a copy of **[Cat Secrets Revealed](#)**, if she's going to avoid a repeat of the *Binky* episode. I've been sworn to secrecy under threat of having to do my own laundry, but let's just say Mom better be real glad that *America's Funniest Home Videos* has editorial standards.

I keep telling her I'm only one good E-book away...

There's also one called **[Dog Care Secrets](#)** in case your Mom lives around any pro football players. Another near classic is **[Sit Stay Fetch Dog Training](#)**.

If you don't see your critter covered, you can find hundreds more topics at the **[CB Mall](#)**.

Chapter 14 Get a Better Mom

This year for Mother's Day, how about treating yourself to a better Mom? Now don't get excited; I'm not talking about one of those "reality show" swaps. I'm talking about helping your Mom to do things she's always talked about but has never gotten around to.

Let's face it - just about everybody has some self improvement projects they'd like to undertake, or some unfulfilled dreams they've never gone after. (Not me, of course. Life doesn't get much better than being a celebrated e-Book author living in Mom's basement!) And for most people, without a little prodding or encouragement, they'll never get around to making the changes they need to or making their dreams a reality. But that doesn't have to be the case with your wife or Mom. Check out some of the really cool gifts you can get her to help her make it all happen.

A Novelist and Doesn't Know It?

Has Mom ever talked about becoming a writer? That's a common dream of many people, not just women. And if yours has ever expressed that desire, you can help her turn that dream into reality. For many aspiring writers, the problem is getting started. They just don't know how to start, or how to format a book, or craft a plot, or flesh out characters. But there's an amazing piece of software that will allow the aspiring novelist in your Mom to come out. It's called **New Novelist**. It's based on the very same teaching system used at England's most famous creative writing school, the University of East Anglia.

With **New Novelist**, Mom will have the guidance she needs but, just as important, will be able to write at her own pace. Over 50,000 people have bought the software, so they must be doing something right. So if your Mom is a frustrated would-be writer, check it out. It just might be very thing that makes it all come together for her. (Of course, she'll probably never become a celebrated e-Book author like myself, but you never know!)

Maybe your wife or Mom has zero interest in writing a book, but would love to be an artist. Well, there's an absolutely amazing **Learn to Draw** course by Jacque Fresco. Fresco is an incredible achiever still going strong in his 90s. He's had over 100 inventions, many of them patented, in such varied fields as architecture, aerospace, medicine, and motion pictures. He's lectured at dozens of universities, including Columbia and Princeton. He's been an instructor at The Art School of Hollywood. And he says he can teach anyone to draw in just a few short weeks, no matter how little talent they have. Much of the course is on video, so your Mom can follow along exactly, instead of just looking at pictures in a book. Of course, it comes with a money back guarantee, but your Mom will probably love it so much that will never come up.

Mom love to travel? With the price of jet fuel these days, it's becoming more and more expensive. That's why you should get her a copy of **Save on Airfare Secrets**. The author (not as celebrated as me, of course) says he's a fired airline employee and his way of getting revenge is showing people all the secrets and tricks to saving hundreds of dollars on their plane tickets, as well as a lot more little known insider info. (I'm working on my own up to date air-travel guide, which will show you how to score a seat in non-smoking every time you fly. Guaranteed.)

The Music Mom

Maybe your wife or Mom is more inclined to music than drawing or writing, but has never really pursued her desire. If so, there are some incredible resources online to help her make it happen. Would she like to learn to play acoustic guitar? Then check out the **Jamorama**

Acoustic Guitar Course. It includes 153 video lessons, as well as 26 Jamorama audio files where the student can turn off the guitar track and play along themselves with the drummer and bassist. It's pretty cool, and has got tons of rave testimonials.

How about learning to play piano? More and more adults are wishing they'd taken lessons as a kid, and are thinking it's too late to learn. But it's never too late! Check out **Hear and Play** which promises to teach people to play a song on the piano after hearing it. Besides their basic course, they've also got courses focused on Jazz and Gospel. And if she'd rather learn to sing than play an instrument, check out **Singorama**. They say they can help anyone improve their singing abilities, and they've got a lot of great testimonials.

Shape Up or Ship Out

If your Mom wants to get in better shape, check out **Fit Over 40** by Jon Benson. Over the age of 40, it's a lot tougher to get in or stay in good physical shape, but Benson says he can show you how to do it. He has some pretty impressive before and after pictures.

A lot of the increasing aches and pains people suffer as they get older are due to the fact that our posture tends to get worse as we age. **Better Posture Guaranteed** can help improve her health and quality of life dramatically by showing her some easy ways to improve her posture.

Mom can learn the 10 Idiot Proof Rules of Dieting and Fat Loss at **Fat Loss 4 Idiots**. Want to help Mom eat right in order to lose weight, have less stress, live longer, sleep better, all while helping reduce her chances of suffering from a heart attack, stroke, or cancer? Then check out **Healthy Food for Healthy Living**.

Is Mom a fag fiend? Not good. She knows she should quit, but it's hard. Help her out at **The Quit Smoking Company**, which offers a wide variety of quit smoking aids. Or visit the **EasyQuit System** for a different approach to smoking that has helped a lot of folks quit.

Dr. Alex Lloyd says that ill health has deep emotional roots that medicine misses. He's created the **Healing Codes** to help people get to the root of their illnesses. One of the testimonials is from a medical doctor who says that following the **Healing Codes** made his Lou Gehrig's disease disappear.

Maybe your Mom or wife needs help clarifying exactly what she wants to do, and how to do it. That's where goal setting comes in. One excellent resource to help her focus on that is a Personal Strategic Plan from **The Goals Guy**. He's got lots of testimonials from people who've accomplished far more than ever before after signing up with him.

An even more famous resource is the free course by Mark Joyner called **Simpleology**. Hundreds of thousands of people have taken the **Simpleology** course, and it's even been turned into a best selling book of the same name. It's free, and strongly recommended.

Minding Her Own Business

One way to get Mom to mind her own business is to have her start one. Lots of people are earning a good income with a home based internet business, but getting started can be confusing and intimidating. A company that will take your Mom by the hand and show her exactly what to do, in very detailed steps, is **Site Build It**.

They've helped thousands of people build profitable websites, and they can do the same for your Mom. (I've told Mom she should start a home based business, but she says she's already a

full time day care provider, and then she laughs. I have no idea what she's talking about - she's here with me all day. Mom has a weird sense of humor!)

If your Mom is a bookworm, look into setting her up with a ***BookWise*** online bookstore. She'll get a new book, DVD, or CD every month, along with business and tax training, and the small monthly investment is guaranteed for a whole year.

If she doesn't know what she wants to do when she grows up, then look into the ***48 Days to the Work You Love*** program or ***Entrepreneurs at Home***.

Chapter 15: Closing Thoughts

Well, there you have it folks. A ton of suggestions for Mother's Day gifts you never knew existed, or hadn't thought about. Just like I promised. I think you can see now why I'm one of America's most celebrated e-Book authors. Face it - if you didn't find at least one gift idea in here that you'd really like to get for Mom, you're probably adopted.

And whether or not you wind up going with any of the gift ideas in here, I hope you had fun reading it. And, if not, well, how much did you pay for it? So what are ya gonna do? Sue me? Right. What jury in America is going to side with you over one of this nation's most celebrated e-Book authors? Exactly. So put that in your pipe and smoke it why don't ya? (Okay, maybe a jury in Terre Haute. But that's about it.)

I'd love to hear your feedback after reading this. You can contact me at [**mamasboy@membermom.com**](mailto:mamasboy@membermom.com). (Sorry, ladies, but due to the volume of email, photos cannot be returned.)