

Books for the randoms on your gift list

- ▶ Gifts for close family members and friends are easy to buy
- ▶ But what about that weird cousin you haven't seen in three years?
- ▶ Or your brother's latest flame?
- ▶ There's a book out there for every question mark on your Christmas list



That one cousin you know nothing about

'The Chinese Takeout Cookbook'

By Diana Kuan

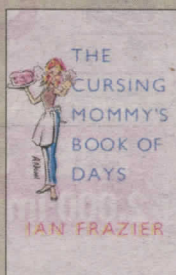
Everyone eats Chinese food. But you can't wrap up a pint of General Tso's and put it under a tree, can you? "The Chinese Takeout Book" is full of simple recipes that anyone can whip up, even if you're unsure of your cousin's cooking ability — or name.

The fun mother-in-law

'The Cursing Mommy's Book of Days'

by Ian Frazier

This hilarious "diary" written in the voice of a frazzled, tipsy woman, known as the Cursing Mommy, will be an apt gift for any family member who has a sense of humor — or a slight cursing problem.



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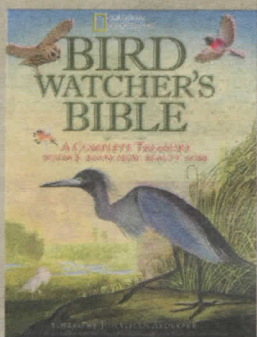


For the aunt who loves animals

'The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs'

Foreword by Malcolm Gladwell

This excellent, handsome and hefty compendium of all things canine (cartoons, essays, poems, humor pieces and more) is culled from the famed magazine's archives.



The nature-loving father-in-law

'Bird Watcher's Bible: A Complete Treasury'

Edited by Jonathan Alderfer

Even for nonbirders, the "Bird Watcher's Bible" is a surprisingly readable and interesting collection of interesting bird facts, how-to hints, folklore and history. The beautiful illustrations are a treat to gaze upon.

Your brother's new girlfriend

'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie'

by Ayana Mathis

Don't know anything about this strange newbie who will be attending Christmas dinner with your family? Don't despair: "The Twelve Tribes of Hattie" is Oprah's new book club book, meaning it's a book she'll be familiar with — after all, everyone knows Oprah. (And if she doesn't, there's a problem.)

