



BROOKLYN_BORN

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Exactly What I Wanted for Christmas

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

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This may not be special to a lot of people, but to someone who does not live in an area known for "healthy" food, finding canned fruit packed in juice is very difficult. Heavy syrup, yes, but I don't want that.

The store that stocks the varieties in the photo is 50 miles from me.

This hermit hasn't ventured that far from home since returning from South America on March 1st.

This display was left on the table of our house in town by a friendly elf - AKA my DD Hayburner1969 (The house belonged to my parents and we just kept it after they passed). We stay there when life at the lake is bleak (midwinter, storms, lack of power etc).

I like fruit in my oatmeal and when I run out of my frozen wild blueberries, this thoughtful gift will see me through the winter.

Flashback to 1979

Son at age 4: Mommy, I'm glad we're rich.

Me: Why do you think we're rich?

Son: Because we have everything we need and don't need.

Very perceptive even though back then our young family was anything but "rich" by the accepted definition

So now to the gifts I really don't need but are very nice to have. Tasty too!



Do I NEED all this delicious homemade chocolate?

No, but there's a 100 year old family business back in NYC that does need customers



Joe & I passed that store of homemade candy just about every day when we were dating
He bought me a huge box of chocolates from there for Valentines Day in 1964.

Only through ancestry.com did we discover that the shop was opened in 1920 by one his relatives and has been family owned and operated for a century.

Schmidt was a common name so it never occurred to us.

We stopped in there to introduce ourselves in 2017 during our NYC trip for our 50th anniversary.
The owner gave us this.



We have ordered chocolate from them ever since both for ourselves and our children.
Our daughter sends some to her in-laws as well.

One more very thoughtful gift arrived (from DD Hayburner1969)



We have a variety of bird houses and feeders in our yard.

The diversity is wonderful to see. All species get along except for the blue jays.

When they arrive, they chase all the others away. They are the bullies of the neighborhood.

Squirrels have the same effect. Both eat all the food before the little guys can get any.

This new model is something our feathered friends need especially the little ones.

Not only is it "squirrel proof" but the access is too small for the blue jays.

The little birds can hop inside and eat in peace.

Peace to all this holiday season!

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SAMMILESSACH

Awesome 😊.

It is hard to find pineapple in it's own juice. When I do I stock up!

It is So no great to support local businesses! 😊

133 days ago

v



TOMATOCAFEGAL

So true. We supported small businesses this year.

153 days ago

v



SABLENESS

Those are great gifts! For healthy foods shipped to you in outstanding packaging, you may want to look into Thrive Market. Our daughters got us hooked by shipping us occasional parents care packages full of healthy foods and other natural products. The cats love the boxes and wrappings to play with.

155 days ago

v

Comment edited on: 1/3/2021 12:53:32 PM



GLORYB83

Beautiful Christmas gifts. Lots of fruit canned in juice is what I love! Chocolates - I'd be putting some in freezer and passing along the rest of it. Of course a piece at night would really be lovely too.

v

Your son's (at 4 years old) version of being rich made me smile, I love to hear how children think of things.

Enjoy a wonderful year.



156 days ago



NAVYWIFESKI
Lovely, thoughtful gifts! Happy New Year!:)
156 days ago

v



THOMS1
I like that bird feeder! Our yard has become almost a bird sanctuary with all of the feeders, corn, peanuts and the different flavor of suet. We get a lot of Junco's in the winter, Blue Jays, the beautiful cardinals and all of the more common birds. It's great to see them all enjoying. In the spring and summer it's the Hummingbirds my favorites. Love the chocolate story and the one about your son when he was 4. I guess you could say we are rich today having everything we need plus way too much more. Happy New Year to you and yours and a wish for a better 2021.



157 days ago

v



GRAMPIAN
 Thank you for a very interesting blog.
157 days ago

v



MARKSMOM3

157 days ago

v



COOKWITHME65
What a wonderful gift of fruit from your daughter!!! You are set for the winter. Happy New Year!!
157 days ago

v



NOTALOSER1
67 and careful. Can't wait for my COVID vaccine. Then I'm off to Sprouts for fresh produce and fruits. Can't wait to go back to NYC. Hopefully for Christmas 2021! HAPPY NEW YEAR to you!
158 days ago

v



BESSHAILE
What a marvelous daughter to leave you that display of syrupless fruit. All your gifts look wonderful to me. Especially the squirrel proof feeder. Let me know if it works. I've been going through feeders like a hot knife in butter, but so far none of them have kept our acrobatic squirrels away.

Happy New Year to you sweetie - and may you have many more chocolate anniversary wreathes.
158 days ago

v



AKA_TROUBLE

Nice and you have a very thoughtful DD.
158 days ago

v



SUNNYBEACHGIRL
We have been going to a small specialty bakery a little more often to help keep them in business. The crazy situation with the virus has made me realize how much I take for granted my favorite places will be there.
158 days ago

v



NANCYPAULINE
I appreciate your loyalty to the family-owned candy store. Sometimes buying something we may not need is an act of generosity. After all, who really needs Girl Scout cookies or all the other "treats" children sell for fund raisers? It's community spirit if you can afford it. I think it's what some people call "paying it forward."

158 days ago

v



AZMOMXTWO
this is so full of interesting titbit's I like the bird feeder and who doesn't love a bit of good chocolate

v

158 days ago



JUNETTA2002
Looks like a blessing to me
158 days ago



GINA180847
 Lovely story about the chocolatier.
158 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949
 159 days ago



BJAEGER307
I really like that bird feeder, you'll have to tell us how it works out and if it does what it says it will do. We don't have a problem with blue jays but the eastern starlings are another matter. We also have tons and I mean a lot of sparrows, sometimes I think there are at least 50 of them out there at one time. We had a nice bird feeder that kept out squirrels, but it broke and got got another one but it's different. Keeps out the squirrels, but the birds have to fight to get on there cause it's on the small side. I've been looking for a new one but have not found the right one yet.

I'd like your opinion after you have tested this one out. If you like it and does the job I think I'll look into getting one just like it.

159 days ago



RACHNACH
 159 days ago



CHAYOR73
Nice bird feeder!! Love how a tree was created by the can goods.
159 days ago



UPTOIT59
You know I had forgotten about our Chocolatier in NY- because of our large family I always felt that we helped keep them in business at Eastertime! I feel bad that I haven't given them a thought- their grandkids went to school with my older kids. Wow- I will have to reach out! Thanks for the reminder on that as well as sharing your other thoughts.

159 days ago



HANOVERLADY
Your son's comments are very timely. My husband and I are not rich in the traditional sense but in this pandemic we are rich. Our retirement checks easily cover the mortgage and our needs. We have enough to eat. We have enough to donate to the food bank. Rich is a very relative concept.
159 days ago



CD24069739
Great
159 days ago



JULIJULINN
 159 days ago



SWEETNEEY
wonderful post thanks for sharing
159 days ago



RHOK20047
Great story of the chocolate store and its familial connection
159 days ago



PLCHAPPELL
Great news and perspective
159 days ago

v



LIS193
Such thoughtful gifts from your family. Love what your son said.. we are rich because we have everything we need

v



159 days ago

v



QUARTERMASTER3

v

159 days ago

v



PATRICIAANN46
I am going to look for the feeder in your final photo. We have the same problem with the Blue Jays and Squirrels. You could freeze your extra chocolate and serve it when "Safe" friends and family drop in. I will be there this coming Thursday,,,,,,,,,,
159 days ago

v



MARYJEANS1
I love that bird feeder - it made me remember one very ambitious and athletic squirrel who used to overcome the squirrel baffle my mother had put on her feeder by climbing onto a not terribly close wall and leaping through the air to land on the feeder. It was impressive. I told Mom you really couldn't begrudge the food to a squirrel who would do that much to get it.

v

But I'm glad the little birds will be able to get enough to eat at your feeder! I also love that you are supporting a small family business. I try to patronize small businesses, too, as much as I am able. (I'm afraid Amazon got far too many of my Christmas dollars this year.)
159 days ago

v



SPEEDED2
What thoughtful gifts given by your family. The gifts, given with love, will remind you of that love every time you use them. More precious memories tied to the chocolate. You are truly blessed

v



to be surrounded by such an abundance of love.
159 days ago

v



NANCY-
Have you tried ordering your groceries online. I hear many ship. Like Target
<https://www.target.com/c/canned-fruit-packaged-foods-pantry-grocery/-/N-6pejeZcl92v>
I need to figure out how to order online.
159 days ago

v



52BINCE
Awesome blog! And such great stories you share! ... I also think all the canned fruit is a terrific gift!
159 days ago

v



HEALTHYGRAMMY13
Love the bird feeder. I could use one like that with all the squirrels that attack our feeders
159 days ago

v



NANANANA
Interesting bird feeder.
In 1965 when I first started dating my DH, he said, 'WE have to go into L.A. to see my cousins the Schmidts.' The place was Herbie's Hot Nuts in West L.A. about 10 minutes from my parents. I don't know if Herbie was from New York but his wife was from Chicago.
159 days ago

v



MSMOSITIMPROVED
CHOCOLATE !

v

I need to know if the squirrel proof feeder works. Mine are really crafty and persistent buggers



159 days ago

v



PATRICIA-CR



I love the gift choices. Well said.
159 days ago



LINDA!

You have received some wonderful gifts. It is really cool that you order from the chocolate store where your husband discovered some relatives. I also feed the birds every morning. As we sit indoors, so long, it is fun to look out and watch them eat.

159 days ago



DARLENEK04

I definitely have need of one of these bird feeders....we have so many squirrels around here, black ones, gray ones, brown ones...and I do have a lot of little birds as well as doves...
my daughter is very thoughtful as well.

159 days ago



DOVESEYES

Wonderful thoughtful gifts and a wonderful caring family a great credit to you and your Husband :)
159 days ago



HARRIETT14

I live in a small town with two supermarkets across from each other. It's great for me since I love fresh fruit and vegetables. I don't seem to run out of them however, I also have canned ones too. Since the war between them has been going on very strongly I have forgotten about the cans. Believe me they will not be forgotten when it will be difficult getting into town.
I gave my bird feeder to my DD & DS because there were too many bears coming through my yard trying to eat their all of the feed.

159 days ago



MJREIMERS

Well Said!

159 days ago



HARROWJET

I need one of those bird feeders. The squirrels are taking over.

You have a very thoughtful daughter.
159 days ago



SUSIEMT

As my sister say a squirrel has to eat too. I put out corn cobs for them. (((HUGS)))



WHYNOTTRY45

GREAT!

159 days ago



DSHONEYC

Love the chocolates and love the bird feeder for the 'underserved'...hate bullies.
159 days ago



PHEBESS

Your son was very wise for such a little guy!

And those are all wonderful gifts!!! Chocolate is always my go-to special treat, and I often have a bar of 85% or so in the fridge - just one or two squares is all I need to feel happy.

Though I'm currently munching on cut-up watermelon from the supermarket. Another treat for myself (and a healthier option!) - because DH isn't fond of watermelon, and I don't want to take up have the fridge with one just for myself!

Your neighborhood birds will appreciate the new feeder all winter long!
159 days ago



HAYBURNER1969

I'm glad you like your useful gifts! I'm happy to see some of your readers have ordered candy from Margie ! If you Google Margie Schmidt candy New York, you can find several TV interviews of

her!
160 days ago

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