

# Sexy gift may have many meanings

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to "Shocked," who was surprised when her husband's parents sent her lingerie for her birthday. Many men feel that lingerie is the ultimate turn-on. Her in-laws may have intended to add a little extra romance and provide a pleasant surprise for their son — a wish he himself may have conveyed. I speak from experience. My



## abigail van buren

• dear abby

mother-in-law gave me some lingerie for my bridal shower, saying, "I was married once, too, and trust me — this will make him happy." And it has, three years later. — SARA IN TEXAS

DEAR SARA: That letter certainly struck a familiar chord with a lot of wives. Let me share some of the comments I received:

DEAR ABBY: For the shocked

daughter-in-law who wasn't happy about the peek-a-boo nightie — that's nothing! I received the same kind of outfit from my mother-in-law at a couples' shower that was held at our Baptist Sunday school teacher's house, in front of a group of young Navy pilots.

And the family wonders why the relationship has always been tense. — BEEN THERE AND WORSE

DEAR BEEN THERE: Why not make it "past tense" and forgive her the lapse in judgment? The gift may have been well-intended, but her timing was off. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I can do her one better. When my mother died years

ago, her prayer circle presented me with a gift of underpants. I've never been able to figure that one out. — MARY IN ASHEVILLE, N.C.

DEAR MARY: It makes one wonder what they were praying for.

DEAR ABBY: You missed a glaring point in the letter from "Shocked," the woman who wasn't sure how to react when her in-laws sent her a sexy negligee and a thong for her birthday (she was embarrassed): They had never sent her a birthday gift before!

Maybe the nightie wasn't a gift but a message. Perhaps the in-laws had heard something that caused them concern, and their gift was an

attempt to inject some excitement into a flat relationship. "Shocked" should pause and consider the state of her marriage. After several years of marriage — especially with children — it's easy for a husband and wife to take each other for granted and grow apart.

If "Shocked" thinks her love life with her husband is lackluster, she might consider putting that gift to good use. — KAREN IN FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA.

DEAR KAREN: It's worth considering. However, it did not occur to me that instead of a birthday gift, her in-laws had given her a veiled warning.

DEAR ABBY: That letter brought back such memories for me. When my husband and I were married 40 years ago, my mother-in-law would buy me sexy nighties every year for Christmas and birthdays.

When our first son was born four years later, I began receiving flannel nightgowns from her. Maybe "Shocked's" in-laws are trying to tell her they're ready for grandchildren. — RITA IN SPRINGFIELD, MO.

DEAR RITA: If they are, they're making a mistake. Besides being inappropriate, that kind of meddling often puts daughters-in-law on the defensive.

TUESDAY EVENING												E-Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone												MAR. 9, 2004			
E	S	6 pm		6:30	7 pm		7:30	8 pm		8:30	9 pm		9:30	10 pm		10:30											
36	53	A&E	Biography "Jim Jones: Journey Into Madness" (N) [G]			Cold Case Files Murderer convicted 30 years later. (N) [G]						Third Watch "Ladies Day" (N) [G]			Biography "Jim Jones: Journey Into Madness" (N) [G]												
4	6	ABC	8 Simple Rules [G]		I'm With Her [G]		According to Jim (N) [G]		Less Than Perfect (N) [G]		NYPD Blue "Take My Wife Please" (N) [G]		News [G]		(:35) Nightline [G]		(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) [G]										
26	48	ANPL	Beastly Countdown Kookaburra: coyote. (N)			Lance Burton's Guerilla Magic [G]			Miami Animal Police (N)			Beastly Countdown Kookaburra: coyote.			Lance Burton's Guerilla Magic [G]												
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy [G]			Significant Others (N)			Significant Others (N)			Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "John Z." [G]			Significant Others [G]		The West Wing "In Excelsis Deo" [G]		Queer Eye-Guy [G]								
7	11	CBS	Navy NCIS "The Immortal" (N) [G]			The Guardian "The Bachelor Party" (N) [G]			Judging Amy "The Wrong Man" (N) [G]			News (N)		(:35) Late Show Bette Midler, Howie Day. [G]		The Late Late Show [G]											
24	50	DISC	Web of the Spider Monkey [G]			Real Miami Cops Dogs learn to sniff out drugs. [G]			Justice Files "Betrayal of Trust" (N) [G]			New Detectives: Forensic Science [G]			Mob Scene "The Ghost of Sonny Black" (N) [G]												
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible [G]		The Proud Family [G]		Even Stevens [G]		Sister, Sister (N) [G]		Sister, Sister (N) [G]		Lizzie McGuire [G]		★ ★ "Smart House" (1999, Comedy) Ryan Merriman, Katey Sagal. [G]												
49	81	E!TV	101 Reasons [G]			101 Reasons [G]			101 Reasons [G]			Howard S. [G]		Howard S. [G]		101 Reasons [G]											
22	56	ESPN	Wm. Basketball [G]			College Basketball: Horizon League Final [G]			College Basketball: Horizon League Final [G]			SportsCenter (Live) [G]		Outside [G]			Gamenight [G]										
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball [G]			College Basketball: Sun Belt Final -- Teams TBA [G]			College Basketball: Sun Belt Final -- Teams TBA [G]			Streetball [G]		Wisconsin [G]		Fastbreak [G]			Streetball [G]								
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "Little Giants" (1994) Rick Moranis. [G]			Who's? [G]			Who's? [G]			The 700 Club [G]		Funnies Home Videos [G]													
59	-	FIT TV	Bodies [G]			In Shape [G]		Workout [G]		Fitness [G]		Cardio and Weights [G]		Bodies [G]		In Shape [G]		Workout [G]		Fitness [G]							
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Hard Contract" (1969) Lee Remick [G]			(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Panic in Needle Park" (1971) [G]			(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Panic in Needle Park" (1971) [G]			"Johnny Dangerously" [G]															
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live Emeril makes snacks. (N)			America Eats [G]		Roker on the Road [G]		Food Finds "Amer. Festivals" [G]		Unwrapped "Hot Dogs" [G]		Good Eats [G]		Emeril Live Emeril makes snacks. (N)											
13	7	FOX	American Idol "Wild Card Night" (ITV) (Live) (N) [G]			Cracking Up "Pilot" [G]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [G]		Cagney & Lacey "Old Flames" [G]		Kojak "Mouse" [G]															
40	38	FX	Cops [G]		Cops [G]		Cops [G]		Cops [G]		Cops [G]		★ ★ "Planet of the Apes" (2001) Mark Wahlberg. Premiere. [G]														
30	55	FXSP	NASCAR [G]		Rocky Mt. [G]		FOX One [G]		NASCAR [G]		The Best Damn Sports Show Period [G]			FOX One [G]		Rocky Mt. [G]		Rocky Mt. [G]									
5	14	HBO	(5:00) ★ ★ ★ "Hero" (1992) Dustin Hoffman. [G]			(:15) ★ ★ "Life or Something Like It" (2002, Comedy) Angelina Jolie. (N) [G]			PG-13 [G]			★ ★ ★ "Catch Me if You Can" (2002, Comedy-Drama) Leonardo DiCaprio. (N) [G]			PG-13 [G]												
62	67	HGTV	Outer [G]		Sensible [G]		Decorating [G]		Design [G]		Designers' [G]		Designers' [G]		Home [G]		Design [G]		Outer [G]		Sensible [G]						
58	52	HIST	Judas: Traitor or Friend? [G]			Tactical to Practical [G]			Modern Marvels "Dangerous Cargo" [G]			Deep Sea Detectives "S-5: Doomed Sub" [G]			Judas: Traitor or Friend? [G]												
25	35	IND	★ ★ "Blue Streak" (1999) Martin Lawrence. A thief poses as a cop to retrieve a hidden diamond. [G]			(:10) ★ ★ "U-Turn" (1997, Mystery) (PA) Sean Penn, Nick Nolte. [G]			(:10) ★ ★ "U-Turn" (1997, Mystery) (PA) Sean Penn, Nick Nolte. [G]			Mystery (PA) Sean Penn, Nick Nolte. [G]			(:10) ★ ★ "Blue Streak" (1999) (PA) [G]												
18	63	LIFE	The Nanny [G]		The Nanny [G]		"A Crime of Passion" (1999, Drama) Tracey Gold. [G]			Golden [G]			Golden [G]		The Nanny [G]		The Nanny [G]										
23	77	MTV	TRL (ITV) (N) [G]			Music Videos [G]			Direct Effect [G]			TRL (ITV) (N) [G]			Real World [G]			Real World [G]									
3	9	NBC	News [G]		Ent. Tonight [G]		Friends (N) [G]		(:40) Scrubs Surgeon has a disorder. (N) [G]		(:20) Scrubs [G]		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Choice" [G]			News [G]		(:35) The Tonight Show (N) [G]		(:37) Late Night (N) [G]							
8	8	NBC	Friends (N) [G]		(:40) Scrubs Surgeon has a disorder. (N) [G]		(:20) Scrubs [G]		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Choice" [G]			News [G]			(:35) The Tonight Show (N) [G]		(:37) Late Night (N) [G]										
34	43	NICK	Oddparents [G]		Nicktoon [G]		Full House [G]		Full House [G]		Cosby [G]		Cosby [G]		Roseanne [G]		Roseanne [G]		Cosby [G]		Cosby [G]						
2	2	PBS	American Soundtrack: Rock at 50 Celebrating Rock and Roll's Golden Era, 1955 to 1965. (N) [G]									BBC World News [G]			That's My Boy [G]		Charlie Rose (N) (N) [G]										
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) ★ ★ ★ "Stargate" (1994) (N) [G]			Tripping [G]			★ ★ ★ "Star Trek Generations" (1994) Patrick Stewart. (N) [G]			Patrick Stewart. (N) [G]			Scare [G]												
61	41	SPK	Real TV (N) [G]		Real TV (N) [G]		Real TV (N) [G]		Real TV (N) [G]		Star Trek: Next Gener. [G]			Star Trek: Next Gener. [G]			Oblivious [G]			Crash Test [G]							
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out [G]			Clean Sweep College paraphernalia. (N) [G]			In a Fix Opposites share a home. (N) [G]			In a Fix "Gentleman's Den" [G]			Rides "Dominator" Fourteen custom cars. [G]												
28	37	TNT	Law & Order [G] (DVS)			Law & Order [G] (DVS)			Charmed (N) [G]			Angel "Peace Out" [G]			The X-Files "Redrum" [G]												
51	86	TRAV	Food Crazy (N) [G]			Made [G]			Made [G]			Kings of the Road [G]			Food Crazy [G]			Made [G]			Made [G]						
21	82	TVLND	Burnett [G]			All-Family [G]			Sanford [G]			Bewitched [G]			Griffith [G]			Leave [G]			Family Ties [G]			Cheers (N) [G]			
60	89	UNIV	Mariana de la Noche [G]			Bajo la Misma Piel [G]			Casos de la Vida Real [G]			Impacto [G]			Noticiero [G]			En las Mejores Familias [G]									
20	34	USA	★ ★ ★ "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997) Jeff Goldblum. [G]			Jurassic Park (1997) Jeff Goldblum. [G]			Jeff Goldblum. [G]			Law & Order [G]			Karen Sisco (N) [G]												
12	3	WB	Friends (N) [G]		Everybody-Raymond [G]		Gilmore Girls Lane's band makes its debut; Lorelai and Sookie look at buying another inn. (N) [G]			Gilmore Girls Lane's band makes its debut; Lorelai and Sookie look at buying another inn. (N) [G]			News (N) [G]			Friends (N) [G]			Will & Grace [G]								
99	36	WGN	★ ★ ★ "Madhouse" (1990) John Larroquette. (N) [G]			News (N) [G]			Becker (N) [G]			Becker (N) [G]			Eliminate [G]			5th Wheel [G]									

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THURSDAY EVENING												MAR. 11, 2004														
E S		6 pm		6:30		7 pm		7:30		8 pm		8:30		9 pm		9:30		10 pm		10:30						
36	53	A&E	Smucker's Stars on Ice 2004 (N) [G]								With Malice "Red Heads" (N) [G]				Third Watch "Crime and Punishment" [G]				Smucker's Stars on Ice 2004 [G]							
4	6	ABC	Billy Graham Special [G]				Extreme Makeover (N) [G]				Primetime Thursday [G]				News [G]				(35) Nightline [G]				(06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) [G]			
26	48	ANPL	The Jeff Corwin Experience "Urban Show" [G]				Most Extreme: Strength [G]				Miami Animal Police "Serial Killer Python" (N) [G]				The Jeff Corwin Experience "Urban Show" [G]				Most Extreme: Strength [G]							
63	54	BRAVO	★ ★ ★ "Light It Up" (1999, Drama) Usher Raymond. Forest Whitaker. 'R' [G]				Significant Others [G]				Significant Others [G]				The West Wing (N) [G]				★ ★ ★ "Light It Up" (1999) Usher Raymond.							
7	11	CBS	Survivor: All-Stars "Sorry...I Blew It" (N) [G]				CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "XX" (N) [G]				Without a Trace "Legacy" (N) [G]				News [G]				(35) Late Show [G]				The Late Late Show [G]			
24	50	DISC	Wild Lives of Cats [G]				Maximum Security Prisons [G]				New Detectives: Forensic Science [G]				Cold Case Cops [G]				Mafia Women Mob women's changing roles.							
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible [G]		The Proud Family [G]		Even Stevens [G]		Sister, Sister [G]		Sister, Sister [G]		Lizzie McGuire [G]		"The Poof Point" (2001) China makes its inventors				Mark Curry: A time machine increasingly younger.							
49	81	E!TV	101 Reasons [G]				101 Reasons [G]				101 Reasons [G]				Howard S. [G]				Howard S. [G]				101 Reasons [G]			
22	56	ESPN	College Basketball [G]				SportsCtr. [G]				College Basketball: Big East Quarterfinal [G]				SportsCtr. [G]				College Basketball [G]							
54	57	ESPN2	College Basketball [G]				College Basketball: Big 12 First Round -- Teams TBA [G]								Gamenight [G]				Outside [G]				Gamenight [G]			
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "Rookie of the Year" (1993) Gary Busey [G]				Whoze? [G]				Whoze? [G]				The 700 Club [G]				Funniest Home Videos [G]							
59	-	FIT TV	Bodies [G]		In Shape [G]		Workout [G]		Fitness [G]		Power Hour [G]		Bodies [G]		In Shape [G]		Workout [G]		Fitness [G]							
35	31	FMC	(01) ★ ★ ★ "Prudence and the Pill" (1968) Emeril Live [G]				America Eats [G]				Top 5 [G]				(01) ★ ★ ★ "The Gospel Road" [G]				Hollywood [G]				(01) "Prince of Foxes" [G]			
53	68	FOOD													Unwrapped "Coffee" [G]				Good Eats [G]				Emeril Live [G]			
13	7	FOX	The 35th Annual NAACP Image Awards Annual event honoring black Americans. (N) [G]								The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [G]				Cagney & Lacey "Shadow of a Doubt" [G]				Kojak "Captain's Brother's Wife" [G]							
40	38	FX	Buffy Vampire [G]				Married... [G]				Married... [G]				Cops [G]				Cops [G]				★ ★ ★ "Police Story" (1985) Jackie Chan. [G]			
30	55	FXSP	Women's College Basketball [G]				Women's College Basketball [G]				Women's College Basketball [G]				College Basketball [G]											
5	14	HBO	(5:15) ★ ★ "Iron Jawed Angels" (2004) Hilary Swank. (N) [G]				Pandemic-AIDS [G]				★ ★ "Enough" (2002, Suspense) Billy Campbell. (N) PG-13 [G]				Jennifer Lopez, [G]				★ ★ ★ "Panic Room" (2002) Jodie Foster. 'R' [G]							
62	67	HGTV	Weekend [G]		Landscape [G]		Design [G]		Designers' [G]		House [G]		House [G]		House [G]		Ext hm [G]		Weekend [G]		Landscape [G]					
58	52	HIST	Ancient Discoveries "Ancient Computer?" [G]				Ancient Discoveries: Doctor to the Gladiators [G]				Ancient Discoveries "Heron of Alexandria" [G]				History of Sex "Ancient Civilizations" [G]				Ancient Discoveries "Ancient Computer?" [G]							
25	35	IND	★ ★ ★ "Home Alone" (1990) Macaulay Culkin. A boy defends his home against inept burglars. [G]								(10) ★ ★ "Home Alone 3" (1997, Comedy) (PA) Alex D. Linz, Olek Krupa. [G]								(10) ★ ★ ★ "Funny Farm" (1988) [G]							
18	63	LIFE	The Nanny [G]		The Nanny [G]		"Abducted: A Father's Love" (1996) Chris Noth. [G]				Golden [G]				Golden [G]		The Nanny [G]				The Nanny [G]					
23	77	MTV	TRL (iTV) [G]		[G]		Music Videos [G]				Direct Effect [G]				Videos [G]		Bad Boy Top 10 [G]		Band II [G]							
3	9	NBC	News [G]		Ent. Tonight [G]		Friends [G]		(32) Will & Grace (N) [G]		The Apprentice (N) [G]				(8:59) Princess Diana: The Secret Tapes (N) [G]				News [G]		The Tonight Show [G]					
8	8	NBC	Friends [G]		(32) Will & Grace (N) [G]		The Apprentice (N) [G]				(7:59) Princess Diana: The Secret Tapes (N) [G]				News [G]		(35) The Tonight Show Gisele Bunchén. (N) [G]		(37) Late Night (N) [G]							
34	43	NICK	Oddparents [G]		Nicktoon [G]		Full House [G]		Full House [G]		Cosby [G]		Cosby [G]		Roseanne [G]		Roseanne [G]		Cosby [G]		Cosby [G]					
2	2	PBS	Kansas Spotlight Events. [G]				Peter, Paul and Mary "Carry It On: A Musical Legacy" (N) [G]				BBC World News [G]				Keeping Up [G]				Charlie Rose (N) [G]							
38	83	SCIFI	Mad Mad House [G]				Mad Mad House (N) [G]				Scare [G]		Tripping [G]		Mad Mad House [G]				Tripping [G]		Scare [G]					
61	41	SPK	Real TV [G]		Real TV [G]		Real TV [G]		Real TV [G]		Star Trek: Next Gener. [G]				Star Trek: Next Gener. [G]				Extreme [G]		Extreme [G]					
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out [G]				Clean Sweep "Thanks for the Memories" [G]				In a Fix "Medieval Kitchen" [G]				Wild Weddings [G]				World Wedding Day [G]							
28	37	TNT	NBA Basketball: Hornets at Rockets [G]								NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Sacramento Kings. [G]								Insde NBA [G]							
51	86	TRAV	Beach Resorts [G]				World's Best [G]				South Florida [G]				Beach Resorts [G]				World's Best [G]							
21	82	TVLND	Burnett [G]		All-Family [G]		Sanford [G]		Bewitched [G]		Griffith [G]		Leave [G]		Family Ties [G]		Cheers [G]		Sanford [G]		All-Family [G]					
20	89	UNIV	Mariana de la Noche [G]				Bajo la Misma Piel [G]				Aqui y Ahora [G]				Impacto [G]				Noticiero En las Mejores Familias [G]							
60	34	WB	Law & Order [G]				★ ★ "10 Things I Hate About You" (1999) Heath Ledger. [G]								★ ★ ★ "Kinpig" (1996) [G]											
12	3	WB	Friends [G]		Everybody-Roymond [G]		Jamie Kennedy [G]		Jamie Kennedy [G]		Jamie Kennedy [G]		The Help "Pilot" [G]		News [G]		Friends [G]		Will & Grace [G]							
99	36	WGN	★ ★ ★ "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" (1988) [G]								News [G]				Becker [G]		Becker [G]		Elimidate [G]		5th Wheel [G]					