

Your Possible Home

Building Meaningful, Enduring Family Bonds in the Age of AI



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The Holiday Shopping Clarity Pack

A worksheet for parents

This is the resource I wish I'd had the first year I tried to do holiday shopping with intention. The whole pack exists to solve one problem: by the time Black Friday hits, most of us are running on pressure and momentum, and we end up buying things we didn't really mean to buy because we never sat down beforehand and wrote out what we actually wanted to give. The worksheet below is the sit-down. It takes about thirty minutes if you do it well, and those thirty minutes save you most of December.

The pack has two parts. The first is a pre-holiday input sheet you fill out for each person you're shopping for. The second is an AI prompt that uses your filled-out sheet to help you prioritize, sequence, and ground your shopping before the deals start hitting. The worksheet alone is useful. The worksheet plus the prompt is where the real leverage is.

The pre-holiday input sheet

Fill out one sheet per person. The repetition is part of the value — by the third or fourth person, you'll start noticing patterns in your own gift-giving that are worth paying attention to. Some parents find it useful to do this in a single sitting at the kitchen table on a quiet weekend afternoon. Others spread it across a week. Either works. What doesn't work is trying to hold all of this in your head and deciding in the moment.

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Field	Your answer
Name of the person you're shopping for	
Their age, season of life, or stage they're in	
Total budget range for this person	
Top one to three priority needs — items you genuinely want to give them	
Nice-to-have items if budget allows	
Long-term or future-oriented items — things that support who they're becoming	



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"Absolutely not" items — categories you've decided don't belong in your home	
Notes on color, size, model preferences, or specific details	
One sentence on what you want this gift to communicate	

That last field is the one most parents skip, and it's the one that turns a list of items into a coherent gift. A gift communicates something — a recognition of who the person is, a support for what they're working on, a marker of a season — and naming what you want the gift to communicate before you shop changes what you end up buying.

The AI prompt

Once your sheets are filled out, copy the prompt below into your AI tool of choice. Paste in the contents of your worksheets, then let it run.

I'm planning my holiday shopping and I'd like your help thinking through priorities and sequencing before the deals start hitting.

Here are my filled-out shopping sheets for each person:

[paste your worksheets here, one per person]

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Based on all of that, please help me:

1. Prioritize purchases across all the people on my list — which items are highest priority and which are nice-to-have.
2. Flag which items are better bought earlier (because of stock concerns, shipping windows, or pre-holiday pricing) versus which are worth waiting on.
3. Identify which items are worth researching carefully versus which I can buy quickly without much comparison.
4. Suggest a purchase order across the next four to six weeks that minimizes stress and keeps me from overspending.
5. Flag anything in my list that doesn't seem to fit the values or season of life I described.

Keep the tone practical and warm — not corporate, not overly cheerful.

This is real holiday shopping, not a project plan.

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What to do with what comes back

You'll get a prioritized list, a sequencing recommendation, and probably a few flags on items that don't quite fit what you said you were trying to give. Read the response slowly, and pay particular attention to the flags — those are usually the most useful part. AI doesn't have your relationships, but it does have the words you wrote, and when something on your list doesn't match the words you wrote about the person, it'll notice in a way you might not have.

Question	Your answer
Which items did AI flag as not quite fitting?	
Were the flags right, or do I want to keep the item anyway?	
What's the first purchase I'm making this week?	
What am I deliberately waiting on, and why?	
What's my total projected spend, and is it within the range I set?	

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A note on doing this with your spouse

If you're shopping with a partner, fill out the worksheets together rather than separately. The conversation that happens while you fill them out is often more valuable than the worksheets themselves. You'll find out where you disagree about what a child needs, where you've been quietly carrying different assumptions about budget, and where your gift-giving instincts diverge in ways neither of you had named before. Those conversations are worth having before December rather than during it.

Closing thought

The pack is built around one simple idea: clarity beforehand makes everything afterward easier. The thirty minutes you spend on the worksheets save you the three or four hours you'd otherwise spend wandering, second-guessing, and over-buying in the weeks that follow. The shopping itself becomes faster and quieter, and the gifts you give end up more like the gifts you actually meant to give.

That's the whole purpose of the pack. Not perfection in your shopping — just enough clarity to keep the season from running you instead of the other way around.