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Dreaming Of A Lazy Christmas

Does Just Thinking About The Holidays Inspire A Nap? We're Here To H

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Compiled by Sandy Kallio, Chris Martell and Nicole E. Rogers

If you tilt more toward Scrooge than Martha on the Christmas spirit spectrum, it's a problem . . . unless your girlfriend expects a little Christmas cheer beyond your glasses. Or you can't/won't go home for the holidays but really miss Mom's cooking and crave a good carol. Or you try to convince people you care through cards and gifts.

You care, you really do, just not enough to do much about it.

We can help you with that - not doing much, that is, as in creating an Xmas menu that don't have the time or desire for more elaborate Christmas preparations.

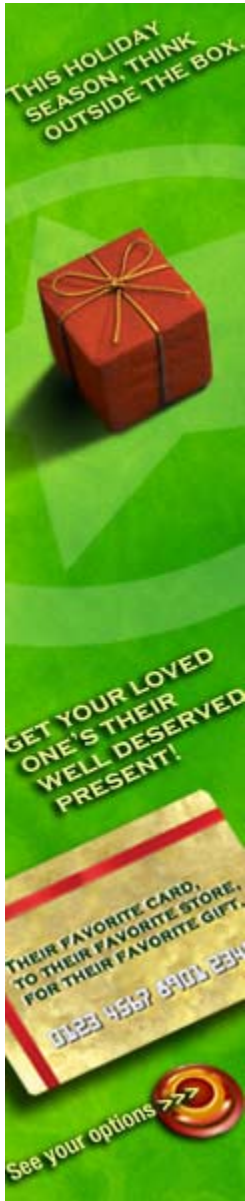
\ XMAS COOKIES



Martha Stewart's Candy-Stripe Cookie Sticks are cute, but does anyone need to use a template that requires a template?

A pox on her and her pastry bag!

The Pillsbury Doughboy is your real friend, helping to redefine the "homemade"



\$2.89 or so at most grocery stores, you can get 20 ready-to-bake sugar cookie place the pre-shaped (yes!) cookies onto an ungreased (yes!) cookie sheet and 12 minutes, enjoying the ensuing artificial aroma.

Should you feel more ambitious, Pillsbury has slice-and-bake sugar cookies and break-and-bake cookies (a good choice since no knife is sullied in the process).

\ XMAS SONGS

Commitment varies, so we offer two suggestions.

The Christmas Sing-Along Car-I-Oke holiday fun kit (Workman Publishing, \$15. CD, book of 17 sing-along carols, activities, Christmas history, lore and trivia - booklets of lyrics for sharing, whether you're passing time in the car on the way and through the woods, or in front of your inflatable Christmas tree.

When singing seems a bother, maybe you can muster the energy to clap and tr ornament hanging from a floor lamp or whatever if you don't have a tree. The c through www.getsilly.com, opens its eyes and shouts, "Hey, over here! Someor here in this branch and well, now I'm just..." and starts singing "Rockin' Around Tree," wrapping up with "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" wishes.

\ XMAS SPIRIT

So you want the rugrats in your life to understand about the Christmas spirit (e part about it's better to give than to receive), but, digging down, you find you l say on the subject?

Let the Magic Elf toy deliver those messages via notes you place in the hands o (don't ask us), one a day from Dec. 1 to Christmas Day, all for \$20 and availab www.themagicelf.com. Feel-good bonus: 10 percent of online sales go to a cha congratulate yourself for getting into the spirit of things without really trying.

\ THANK YOU CARDS

The only thing harder than writing thank-you notes is nagging someone else to in-the-blank cards ease the work either way with Kids Holiday Thank You Notes through www.onestepahead.com.

\ CLEANING FOR COMPANY

For maximum results with minimal effort, a few shortcuts:

Fill laundry baskets, cardboard boxes, pillow cases, bags, etc. with non-holiday wherever you have space, such as a closet, a bedroom you're not anticipating t trunk of your car.

Drape tablecloths over anything that has a messy shelf.

Rather than dust, sweep or vacuum, simply light candles and turn off lights.

For the illusion of a clean house, open a bottle of floor wax or other cleaning flu