

## SPECIAL DELIVERY

Should New Moms Receive "Push Presents" After Giving Birth? || BY LINDA HAASE

**A**fter 24 hours of excruciating labor and an emergency C-section, I just wanted to gaze into my son's eyes and then take a really long nap. I was delirious with pain and so relieved that he was OK that I barely noticed when my husband gave me a stunning bracelet. It was a nice surprise, but the sentiment got lost in the moment.

What I really appreciated was my spouse tackling that first dirty diaper change, holding my hand during the surgery and telling me I looked beautiful (even though we all know no one looks good after 24 hours of hard labor) and chatting about the amazing child we'd soon be bringing home.

It didn't cross my mind to ask for or expect a "push present" – a gift some mothers get from their partners after giving birth.

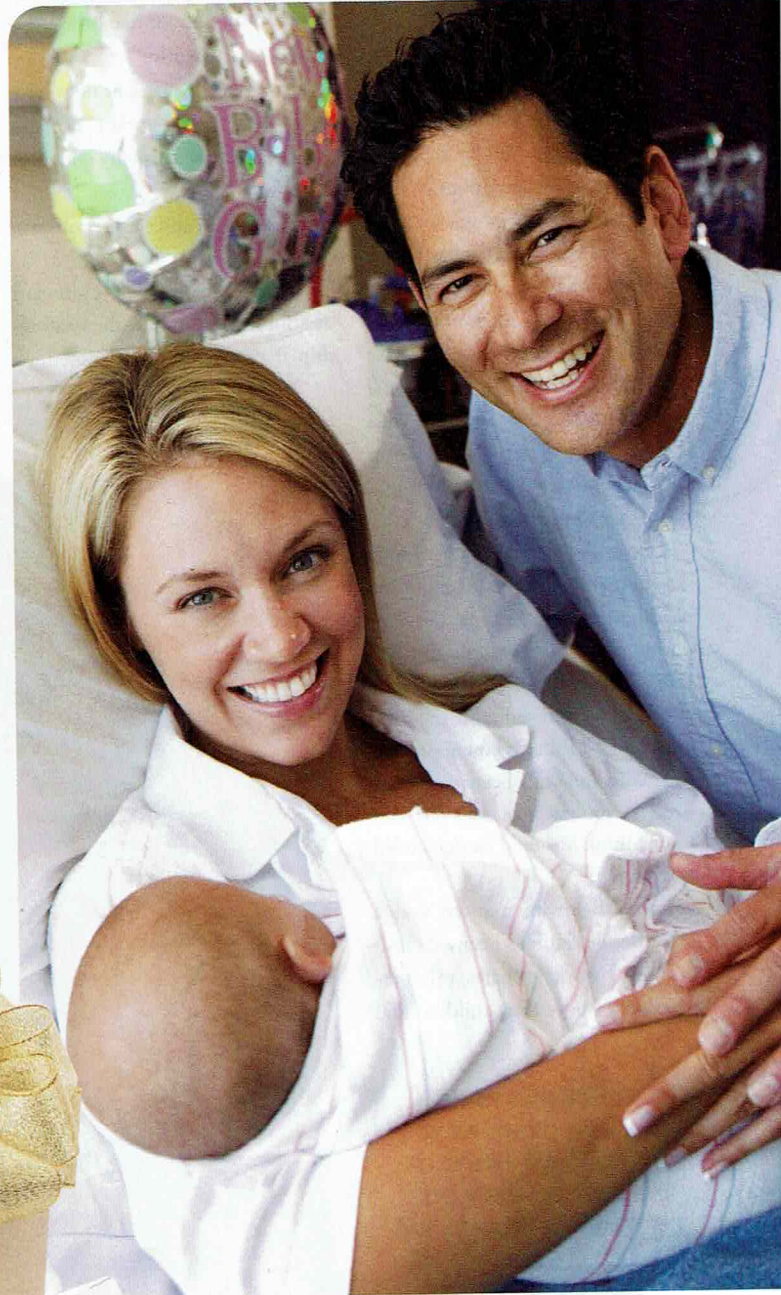
While experts admit that these presents can be a nice gesture, they caution it's not for everyone. And a Today Parents survey of 8,000 individuals revealed that 45 percent of respondents were not fans of push presents, 28 percent loved the idea and 26 percent didn't know what they were.

Celebs like Kim Kardashian West adore – and expect – push presents. She got a wrist full of Cartier bling that reportedly cost \$65,000 after delivering her first child. She upped the ante for her second one, requesting that hubby Kanye West buy her a \$1 million Lorraine Schwartz diamond choker necklace.

Her reasoning: "After nine months of pregnancy, it's a sweet and well-deserved thank you," she writes on her blog. "We women go through an entire pregnancy carrying a baby. Of course it only makes sense that we get something amazing to show how amazing we are!"

The power couple brought their son home a few months ago, and we're still waiting to see if West delivers.

Retailers, including Freedman Jewelers, Uncommon Goods and Bed, Bath & Beyond (which lists more than 100 push presents on its website), have a ready market for the practice, which is endorsed by Parents.com and WhatToExpect.com.



“Although a push present can be seen as a nice gesture, I feel it is a personal decision on the part of the husband and wife. Personally, I feel that the child is the true gift, and the focus should be on the new family system as a whole.”

– Karen Baldwin, licensed clinical social worker



“Whether or not you’re a first-time mommy, you deserve a push present. Check out our favorite gifts and start dropping hints to your hubby before you deliver,” urges Parents.com.

WhatToExpect.com offers this advice for soon-to-be moms: “Hoping to find a box from Tiffany & Co. tucked in your arms along with your brand-new baby? You’re not alone. Push presents are more popular than ever these days – they’re a wonderful way for husbands to thank their wives for all they’ve gone through to bring a baby into the world. Even if you’d rather slide extra cash into your new kid’s college fund, you’ll find something to love on this list, no matter your budget. Drop enough hints to your hubby and you may just get what you want.”

One celeb who isn’t onboard with the practice is Ice T, who expressed his distaste when the topic came up during his talk show: “Alright, let’s think about this ladies... you want a gift, I get it. But, shouldn’t the baby be the gift? I think if you appreciate your wife and she’s been through a struggle, you can give her a gift. But I don’t think it should be demanded or expected.”

Karen Baldwin, a mom and a Palm Beach Gardens licensed clinical social worker, shares this perspective: “I have four children and

Marni Feuerman, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Boca Raton, notes that “some people may view the practice as putting a materialistic or monetary value on something like bringing a child into the world.”

However, she notes, it does have its place: “A gift at any time to someone you love usually goes over really well.”

But, it could also cause problems, she says.

“The cons would be if a gift can’t be afforded. It can hurt the relationship if the mother had something

else in mind other than what was given. And a mother can be viewed as materialistic if she demands one. It could be a turnoff to the spouse.”

Feuerman got a necklace from her husband after the birth of their twins – and, although it was a nice token of appreciation, she says the gift wouldn’t have had the same effect if her marriage weren’t secure.

“I don’t think it would have mattered whether I got a gift or not if the marriage wasn’t going well,” she says. “A gift would not fix that or change my overall feelings.”

Ultimately, it’s important to re-

member that presents don’t always need to come from a store, says Palm Beach Gardens licensed clinical social worker Janet Courtney.

“Not all gifts need to have a monetary component,” she says. “Some of the best presents can be words of recognition and comfort. After I gave birth to my first child, my husband told me: ‘You were such a trooper!’ Those words made me feel so good – he was able to acknowledge all the pain and challenges that I went through. It meant the world to me and was better than any present he could have given.” ○

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never ‘expected’ any type of gift for giving birth. Although it can be seen as a nice gesture, I feel it is a personal decision on the part of the husband and wife. Personally, I feel that the child is the true gift, and the focus should be on the new family system as a whole.”

