

FASHIONISTA

HEY, QUICK QUESTION: IS IT RUDE TO GIFT WRINKLE CREAM FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

This holiday season, tell your mother her neck sags. She might also like to hear about her under-eye bags and wrinkles. In the spirit of giving, why not point out her age spots and drooping jowls, too? Not openly, of course. Say it with a gift!

Okay, yes, the above sentiment could be plucked from [The Onion](#), and no advertiser would dare speak it aloud. Nevertheless, that does seem to be the (non-satirical) subtext of some of Holiday 2019's more suspect gift sets — all very luxurious, to be sure, but also... a little weird to gift your loved ones? Mildly to aggressively offensive? In a word, rude?

Instead of, "Your face requires professional intervention," present them with a gift certificate for Botox, filler or a surgical procedure. Plastic surgeons really do this — Dr. Melissa Doft of [Doft Plastic Surgery](#) even sent out a press release about it. "Due to the financial commitment, these sorts of gifts are most commonly seen amongst close friends and family — people who are privy to their loved one's concerns and could lovingly offer such a treatment without it seeming insensitive," she wrote. "Mother to daughter, daughter to mother, husband to wife, wife to husband."

This feels like a trap. A trap destined to ensnare and strangle any relationship that comes near. The [Peloton Bike](#) of beauty. If my husband did this, I would divorce him and ruin Christmas. DiGuilio agrees: "If my partner of 10 years gave me a gift card for some sort of cosmetic procedure I have never mentioned before, it would be super weird, and I would probably cry." On the other hand: "I'm open about my Botox use, so if someone gave me a gift certificate I'd be pretty stoked," Catina, an event planner in the industry, tells Fashionista.

That seems to be the only way an objectively rude gift will be well-received: If a parent, best friend or significant other has loudly lamented the fact that the "fat compartments that once led to full, youthful cheeks" now "sag to create marionette lines and jowls," as Dr. Doft describes, or has expressed an *explicit* desire to "restore volume to aged hands," then go forth, brave soul, and fill their stocking with an \$800 syringe of hyaluronic acid filler. (If that's out of your budget, Advanced Clinicals [Anti-Aging Wrinkle Serum](#), \$13, promoted by the brand as a "stocking stuffer," will do.)

My own mother has complained about her neck area quite a bit, but still, I could not imagine a scenario in which she opened a Tightening Neck Cream and overflowed with holiday joy and not shame-filled tears. "Wouldn't you be offended if I gave you a skin-care product to 'smooth the appearance of neck lines and sagging'?" I texted in an effort to prove my point.

"If I got it from you, I would like it because I would think that we had talked about my sagging jowls and how they bother me," she texted back. She hates these (imaginary) jowls, she continued, and would love to not have them, but doesn't know what would help and did I have any suggestions?

So, anyway, I think I'll get her that StriVectin set for Christmas.