



ALCOVE

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO
ME**

**ALCOVE
THE STORE
FOR THOSE
WHO BELIEVE**

**ONE CAN'T
BE TOO GOOD
TO
ONE'S SELF —
OR YOUR
FRIEND —
OR YOUR
LOVER —
OR YOUR
MAMA —**

LAND
WEST
ROSE
CLEVE

Beat get-lag by buying gift for yourself

You've just gotten home from the mall, your arms are tired from carrying packages, you're sick of trying to figure out what to get your niece, nephew, grandpa and aunt. You hope they like what you finally settled on, but your feet tell you not to care.

Then you go to your wallet, where you've been so many times, and find, folded neatly in a hidden compartment, an extra \$40. It's like discovering the bank made a \$100 error in your favor.

If you're compulsive, you'll want to spend it. If you aren't compulsive, spend it anyway—this time, on yourself.

Buy yourself a savings bond. For about \$18 you can end up with \$25 if you can hold onto it long enough.

If you're in a mood for more direct spending, buy something you've never bought before.

For example, if you're a costume jewelry collector, put a down payment on a solid gold bracelet or sterling silver earrings.

If you've always bought manufactured serving dishes, search instead for a great piece of pottery with colors you like and a shape that suits you.

Of course, you may not feel like buying something you've never had before.

If so, then buy something you've long been meaning to.

How about framing that print you've always like but that's still sitting in your closet?

Or pay a bill—there's always a flood of relief that comes with that.

Perhaps you're oriented more toward physical fitness. Invest your \$40 in a recreational item. That \$40 will buy a half-year membership at the YMCA, and it might put a dent in the fees at the racquet court. Buy yourself some tennis lessons, or at least the racquet to take those lessons with.

Lazier folks may decide on something more personal. Something others might not get you, but something you really need—luxury underwear.

Underwear is the last thing anyone gives (except husbands to wives and vice versa). If you don't fall into the parentheses, get yourself a new set and wear it on Christmas.

Same goes for men.

Or women can splurge on cosmetics. Instead of buying one thing at a time, like eye shadow, one tube and lipstick another, buy the whole schmear and redo yourself overnight.

Men could also get cosmetics (they are available) but a better investment might be a trip to the local hair stylist. If you're still wearing the wet look, you have plenty of time to dry off before Christmas.

If two of you end up with extra change, share it. Plan an evening out, a nice supper, a play, perhaps both at a dinner theater.

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Wish yourself a Merry Christmas.

—CHRISTINE WALDEN