

## 11-22-19 Hats Off to Being Silly

For many years now I have chosen a theme to guide me in my gift giving at Christmas. There are so many people in my family and as a mother it's difficult to say, "Oh keep it simple." It's a struggle every year. However, the use of themes helps me tremendously. One year it was Picture This and everyone was given photo albums. Another time it was *Let's Get Cooking* and everyone received a family recipe book. Years ago, I used to make a tee shirt with the theme and then they would have fun seeing the items matching up with the theme as they pulled the gifts out of the bag. As the grandchildren grew older, I stopped making the tee shirts, I didn't tell them the theme, and it became a fun guessing game for them to guess what the theme was.

I was getting worried this year as it was getting closer and closer to Christmas and I had nothing to guide me. My youngest daughter was married in September and my oldest daughter is going through treatment for breast cancer, so there's been a lot going on. It was at my daughter's wedding however that I thought the theme of *Be Silly* might be a lot of fun. The idea came from the best man's rap song that was expertly delivered and in that rap song he posed that his advice for the newlyweds was Be silly. Be silly. (It rhymed with the name of their dog Billy which was also talked about in the song.)

As time went by though it was more difficult than I thought it would be finding silly gifts. I thought it would be easy and it wasn't. Of course, there's Silly Putty, maybe some joke books and maybe a few funny games but most of what I was finding were stupid gag gifts and it was just going to be a waste of money.

I put the idea of *Be Silly* as the theme off to the side and decided that I needed to perhaps combine it with something else. Maybe I would call it *Seriously Silly* and give serious gifts and silly gifts. And then inspiration arrived! I was out celebrating with one of my sons and one of my daughters on his purchase of his first home and a friend of my son's came over to congratulate him. My daughter exclaimed, "Oh I love your hat and I love that pompom on top!" She then surprised us by reaching up and pulling it off and then without having to look popped it back on, with the use of a magnet. I told her that pompom looked like a tiny Tina Turner wig, as it was furry and spiky.

Watching my daughter, a mother with her own two children, be so excited about this hat is what gave me the idea that I could look for unique hats for all of them. So, I decided to contact a high school classmate who sells fabric and knitted items on Etsy. I purchased a hat from her last year and then some leg warmers, both of which were wonderful! I thought why not use Hats Off to You! as the theme and support a local artist. So, after much time and deliberation, *Hats Off to Being Silly* it is!

One granddaughter will get a colorful hat with an opening for the ponytail that she so often wears nowadays. Some will be alpaca hats. A family photo with all these wonderful handmade hats will also be a nice gift to give to my high school friend that she can use on her website.

If you have any suggestions for silly gifts, let me know, for I am still finding that challenging. I don't want a worry. I want peace and silliness for Christmas.

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