

SECOND SHOWER

I've been thinking about getting remarried.

This could come as a slight shock to my husband of over twenty years. He's been a wonderful partner, don't get me wrong. But I've attended several wedding showers in the past few months and let me tell you--sometimes even the best of spouses can't compare to a complete set of new high end cookware or a color-coordinated ensemble of fluffy, super-size bath towels.

Sure, my bridesmaids threw a terrific wedding shower for me long ago (Note to Jackie and Rita-- I still owe you for requiring me to make a cake from scratch in front of everyone in attendance—an exercise in futility if there ever was one). I appreciated all those gifts, although I recall receiving one kitchen item, which someone later explained was a “grease separator,” that I had absolutely no idea how to use. Still don't.

But as I watched the recent bride-to-be unwrap gift after fabulous gift, I found myself tempted to put down my glass of punch, stealthily crawl under the tables and abscond with the 600-thread count sheet set she just received. I repressed thoughts of donning a black ski mask and swiping her new microwave oven under cover of darkness. And I had to restrain myself from yelling “Mouse!” so all the women at the shower would flee, leaving me alone to scarf up the high-speed smoothie maker, pewter candlesticks and plush his-and-her bathrobes like a hungry teenage boy at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

It's just that, after being married this long, my crock pot is caput, the towels have given up their will to live and the non-stick pans are sticking. I don't need the new husband, I just need the new stuff! It gets me thinking about an innovative concept that could really catch on: Wives who have been married for more than 15 years or so could get their bridesmaids back together and throw a Second Shower. A Second Shower would allow us not-so-newlyweds to replenish our household items with newer models, without the hassle of trading in our well-trained and broken-in hubbies for uh, well, newer models.

At a Second Shower, everyone would bring a household gift for exchange. There would be different rules to follow for this type of shower however, such as:

1. No mystery kitchen utensils allowed. Anyone bringing an unrecognizable kitchen tool (at least to MY Second Shower) will be punished by having to separate grease.
2. Nothing advertised on late night TV qualifies as a Second Shower gift. Ever.
3. If you don't need or can't use any one item, you can trade with someone else. I myself would be more than willing to exchange any steam iron I receive for practically anything else you get.
4. No post-shower thank you notes are required.
5. Cake is required. And so is ice cream. Lots of it.

I think the idea of a Second Shower like this would be extremely popular. And the biggest advantage of the Second Shower would be that you don't have to actually have a Second Wedding. So relax, honey. And rest assured-- I have zero desire for a Second Baby Shower...

Mary Beth Weisenburger lives in Putnam County with her husband and kids and no smoothie maker.