



## The Working Girls Network Festive Gift Guide

'People don't base their affection on the gifts that you give them'  
Clare Seal @myfrugalyear

The world is a little different this year but for many, the coming month offers a beacon of hope as we move into the new year. Gift-giving, a tradition as old as time, is a way to show thanks to those we care about. For me, gift-giving is one of my favourite parts of the festive period. I love that each gift tells a story, it embodies our understanding and care for the receiver and represents a snapshot of our relationship in a single item. Consumerism can cast a negative light on gift-giving but for many independents this year the festive season offers a lifeline. Therefore, The Working Girls Network is proud to produce a Gift Guide that features a range of brilliant female creators and a few brands who we think are getting it just right.

Before we jump in, we wanted to remind everyone that great gift-giving is about thought not expense. Clare Seal (@myfrugalyear), one of our lockdown live speakers, said it best in a recent post: 'people don't base their affection on the gifts that you give them'. A sentiment echoed wholeheartedly by The Working Girls Network team. We hope this gift guide gives you some ideas but do remember that gift-giving can take many forms.

Books That Matter - <https://www.booksthatmatter.co.uk>

For the avid reader, Books That Matter offer an award-winning book subscription box that puts female authors in the spotlight. For £17 a month, each box contains a book by a female author and three themed gifts by independent female creatives. Members can also enjoy the read together through the brand's online book club. Books That Matter also offer a range of premade, one-off boxes for those looking for a one time purchase.

Blushing Cook - <https://www.blushingcook.com/floral-brownies>

For those in need of a sweet treat, Blushing Cook offers delicious, letterbox baked goods decorated with organically grown edible flowers. Sammi, the founder of Blushing Cook, has worked as a pastry chef in London's Michelin Star Le Gavroche before moving to work as the Head Chef for renowned cake designer Peggy Porschen. Letterbox bakes start from £27 and are as beautiful as they are delicious.

The Basket Room - <https://www.thebasketroom.com/pages/ethical-christmas-gifting>

For the homeware lover, The Basket Room creates beautiful collections of handwoven, decorative storage baskets for the home. The organisation works with small craft collectives in Africa to bring shoppers ethical, stylish accessories with a story. There are baskets for every occasion including a stunning collection launched in partnership with Anthropologie. Baskets start at £9 with a wide range of colours and patterns.

Little Choo- <https://www.littlechoo.co.uk/collections/shop>

For the mum who loves her children to be dressed as stylish as her, Little Choo is run by Ami, a designer-maker who creates her own illustrated fabrics and childrenswear. Her designs are led by comfort and feature genderless styles, which parents love too. Prices



start at £8 and with new fabrics being created and launched regularly, this brand is one to watch.

Bonita Ivie- <https://www.bonitaivieprints.com/collections/all-items>

For the stationery hoarders, Bonita Ivie is a stationery and gift brand that celebrates African culture. Products feature the bright and bold Ankara pattern often found in West African textiles. With prices starting from £3, Bonita Ivie is the perfect secret Santa gift for any budget.

Charlotte Tilbury- <https://www.charlottetilbury.com/uk/products/hot-lips-2>

For the makeup lover, Charlotte Tilbury is a beloved brand with a life-changing pledge to donate £1 million to survivors of war through Women For Women International. Hot Lips Collection 2 is inspired by 11 iconic women, proceeds then support the incredible women served by Women For Women International. Prices start from £14 making the collection the perfect feel-good gift.

Matugga Rum - <https://www.matuggarum.com/store>

For those who enjoy a tippie, Matugga Rum has a distillery based in Scotland where they create premium rum using the finest ingredients from East Africa. Their award-winning rum is available in two core flavours for £39.99. For those unable to decide, Mattuga Rum also offers a virtual rum tasting for £29.99 - the perfect lockdown activity.

Posh Totty - <https://www.poshtottydesigns.com/jewellery/shop-by-collection/share-a-hug-collection.html>

For the jewellery collector, Posh Totty creates jewellery that is designed to be kept forever. Pieces are made by hand and personalised with dates and names. A worthy mention goes to their 'Share A Hug' collection which starts from £25 with £10 from each necklace sold being donated to a women's charity.

Mude Threads- <https://www.mudethreads.com/store/c7/Commissions.html>

For celebrating the female form, Mude Threads is a commission-based brand that celebrates women's bodies by turning them into art. Jaz, the owner of Mude Threads, is an unapologetic feminist who uses the power of nudes to spread the message that our bodies will not be censored, shamed or sexualised without our consent. Nudes by women, for women. Prices start at £35 and those that have participated rave about the transformational process.

The Happy Newspaper- <https://thehappynewspaper.com/shop/>

For those in need of good news, The Happy Newspaper was created by Emily Coxhead to celebrate the good in the world. The newspaper is released quarterly and packed with 32 pages of feel-good stories that span the globe. The Happy Newspaper has over 20,000 subscribers in 33 different countries and for £15.96 for a years subscription (4 issues) it is easy to see why.

Katie Giles-<https://www.katiegillies.com/shop>

For the terrazzo enthusiasts, Katie Gillies is a surface and product designer specialising in using jesmonite. Her colourful terrazzo works make great gifts and can be used for interior



projects and products, ranging from wall panels to homeware goods. Katie focuses on slow design principles and centres on the materials, the origin of a piece and how it's made, taking the environment and sustainability into account. Her ready-made pieces start at £30 in a wide range of colours but if you want to snap one up, you'll have to move fast as collections sell out almost immediately.

Queen Bee Craft By Lynda- [https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/QueenBeeCraftByLynda?ref=ss\\_profile](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/QueenBeeCraftByLynda?ref=ss_profile)

For colourful crochet toys, Queen Bee Craft By Lynda offers beautiful, handmade toys for children. From mermaids to dinosaurs, Lynda's crochet creations can capture the imagination of any child. Prices start from £7 but with so many options it may be hard to choose.

Oest London- <https://oestlondon.com/collections/tranding>

For the fashion fanatics, Oest London is an independent Danish design shop that creates timeless pieces of clothing, footwear and accessories. Based in East London, this store features classics in every colour of the rainbow. With accessories starting from £6 and clothing from £25 there is something for everyone and every budget.

The Plattery- <https://www.theplattery.com/shop>

For the foodies, The Plattery offers postal grazing spreads. What first began as a passion for gathering friends around a table and getting stuck-in to a delicious spread has since evolved into a forward-thinking business with culinary creativity & community at its core. The Plattery combines quality ingredients, imaginative floristry and an abundance of flavours to create daily feasts. Platters start at £25 with all profits from each order being donated to the Vital Meals initiative - feeding those who can't feed themselves.

Net-A-Porter- <https://www.net-a-porter.com/en-gb/shop/gifts/gifts-that-give-back>

For brand lovers, Net-A-Porter has teamed up with a range of designers to create gifts that give back. Shoppers can choose from a range of gifts from huge brands and designers including but not limited to Veja, Birkenstock, Chloé, GANNI, Gucci and Chantecaille. Prices starting from £10.

We hope you have a wonderful festive period and wish you every success as we move into the new year.