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do you do? Should you run upstairs and wrap up that cute little dish of seashell-shaped soaps you have in the guest bathroom? Do you “recycle” that lumpy fruitcake that Grandma Ellie gave you again this year for hosting the dinner? What you should do is prepare for the unexpected guest ahead of time.

Etiquette experts agree that it is poor form for Cousin Pete to bring an uninvited guest to a family dinner without asking permission from the host/hostess. However, once they are on your doorstep, it is your duty

to make the guest welcome. Holiday shopping experts suggest you pick out four small gifts, either two suitable for ladies and two for gentlemen, or four completely generic items. Wrap them and put them in a safe place with a name tag attached, but not



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filled out. If an unexpected guest or two shows up, you can quickly and quietly write their name on the extra gift without anyone being the wiser. You will feel great relief at avoiding a potentially embarrassing, awkward holiday moment. When shopping for these gifts, put yourself in the receiver’s shoes. What would you like? A small book, a relaxation CD, or a small photo frame are top choices for gifts.

In case you have unexpected children at your holiday function, you can pick up some creatively decorated notepads, a few small toys, etc. that would be appropriate for either a boy or

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