

Savoring a 'Happy Birthday'

Yesterday was The Sidekick's birthday.

Now I can honestly say, in my entire life, I've never met a person who gets more excited about having a birthday than The Sidekick.

Birthdays for her are better than Christmas morning, better than an Easter egg hunt, even better than winning a free lottery ticket.

Yesterday morning, she was up bright and early, to get ready for work.

She has to leave for work fairly early on Wednesday mornings, so she showered and primped and did all those things that women do getting ready.

I was still in bed, enjoying that nice cozy early morning mode, when everything is a pleasant fog and dozing comes so easy.

I give The Sidekick top marks for getting ready for work. She's quiet, she shuts the bedroom door so the sound of the shower doesn't disturb me, and she makes sure she doesn't turn on the light in the bedroom without warning me so my eyes aren't seared by the flash.

Once the bathroom becomes silent, and I don't hear the sound of water running or a hair dryer blowing—I know she's almost ready to re-enter the bedroom.

She came into the bedroom, and sat on the side of the bed, knowing full well I'd wake up. After all, it was her birthday, and she was just waiting for me to say those special words.

"Happy Birthday!"

I tell ya, if The Sidekick had a tail, it'd be wagging.

As my eyes adjusted to the dim light, I could see that she'd taken extra care to make sure her hair was perfect, her makeup was flawless and the entire package looked great. She wouldn't be putting on her makeup while stopped at a traffic light this morning—this was serious stuff.

"I'm not sure what to wear today," she said, throwing open the closet doors.

"Well, I see you've started with your 'Birthday Suit'," I commented. "You can build on that."

Ted Brown



I'll admit, I was surprised it was a 'one outfit' morning—she went with her first choice.

As she left for work, I knew she'd enjoy her special day, making sure everyone who entered her office knew it was her birthday, and then be equally pleased when they all countered with 'Happy Birthday,' as a result.

I think she's somewhat unique—she's only too happy to tell the world how old she is, something many women are prone to hide.

And she likes to make damn sure that she looks good, especially on her birthday.

I'm good with that. Taking pride in oneself is a good thing.

Personally, I don't get as wired about my own birthday, (in fact I'm betting she gets more excited when I have a birthday than I do myself,) but I've realized, over the years, that her outlook is really healthy.

I had flowers delivered to her workplace—something she really enjoys. She called me when they arrived.

"The flowers look great," she said, happy as a clam. "I was wondering, would you mind if I left them here (at the office) overnight? After all, we're going out tonight, and I'm working late tomorrow night. That way I get to enjoy them more."

I said it was fine, and smiled to myself.

By leaving the flowers in the office, she had another full day to enjoy them.

And another full day to rub her co-workers' noses in the fact that she received roses on her birthday.

Photo takes third in newspaper contest



The Independent & Free Press managed to pick up one top-three finish in the recent 2012 Local Media Association editorial contest. The annual contest recognizes the best in journalism among community newspapers throughout North America. Ted Brown's photo of a fire juggler at the Magic on Main celebration in downtown Georgetown took third place in the Best News Photo category for non-daily newspapers with a circulation between 16,001 and 36,000. Metroland Media Group, The Independent & Free Press' parent company, led all companies with 129 awards.

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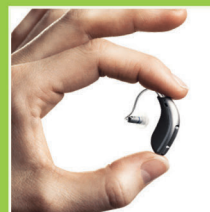
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