

Chilly weather brings out maternal guilt in a big way

"Sweater: A garment worn by a child when his mother feels chilly." — Alma Denny. When I first dabbled in the art of motherhood, I seriously believed the

day would come when my relationship with my son would effortlessly evolve from parenthood into friendship, and that I would cheerfully relinquish responsibility for his day-to-day needs

along the way. That myth was finally laid to rest when I visited him at his downtown apartment just as the cold weather hit.

From the heady days of summer, when the pizza emporium downstairs provided enough heat to fry an egg on his bedroom floor, his

pie-a-terre had become chillingly reminiscent of a walk-in freezer.

A great rush of maternal guilt engulfed me.

How could I not have made sure he had a nice warm hat and gloves? How could I have failed to notice that his stylish snowboarding jacket



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

came without a lining, that his warm socks had holes in the toes, that his pajamas could hardly be described as thermal? What kind of a mother was I?

He calmly assured me he wasn't going to freeze to death and that he could wait a few days, until the weekend, to replenish his woefully inadequate winter wardrobe.

After all, he pointed out, he could have thought of all these things himself — unfortunately for him, however, he takes after his mother in the forward planning department.

"How about an electric blanket?" I asked, desperately. "No thanks," he said, "I'd rather have a hot water bottle."

Poor chap, he can't quite escape his British ancestry, even though he was born and brought up in Canada.


True Brits are expected to suffer certain privations and look down on soft, mollycoddled

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