

With Martha in prison, it's time to enjoy the 'pretty good' life

Martha Who?

Are there people panicking about the fact that Martha Stewart is now officially behind bars, therefore unable to help in the event of a domestic emergency?

For those who have spent the last several years of Martha's domesticated reign trying to find the perfect way to fold cloth napkins and spice up the seasons, this is inevitably a trying time of great unease and confusion. It is in the spirit of a coordinated coming together that I now offer myself as another advice option.

As the poster child for the domestically challenged, the burden of helping others learn the best ways to make toast, camouflage dirty laundry, and decorate despite the dust seems to have fallen right in my wrinkled lap.

Although I realize that Martha may be the undisputed queen of the good life, perhaps in her absence there is now a place in America's heart for the princess of pretty good.

There's probably never a good month to go to prison, but Martha's timing couldn't be worse. Serving her five-month sentence smack dab in the middle of the holiday season seems almost insensitive to her fans. As

if it wasn't bad enough they had to watch so many Martha reruns during her recent stock scandal, now it seems unlikely there will be any Christmas special from the inside.

PERSPECTIVE



The Good

Amy Meyer

Instead of watching her show to find out how to make ghostly porch decorations or searching her magazine for new ways to incorporate pumpkin into their menus, perhaps the overachievers will sit out this holiday.

With the Martha groupies too distraught to decorate, the food curve may graciously be lowered to comfortable levels for us half-done types.

This month, we're finally free to throw an old sheet over a bush and name it Casper, buy some cheap cookie dough in tube and sit back and enjoy the pretty good life from the couch.

But the good news about the pretty good life doesn't stop

there. We all know that for many of Martha's fans, the magic starts in the kitchen.

There has been so much written in Martha's magazine about culinary gadgets, techniques and recipes that it almost makes me feel guilty for still having cooking dilemmas. But for those of us who still burn pop tarts and can find endless ways to mess up mac and cheese, take heart. This is our time to shine. Rise up together and give the phrase, "Do you deliver?" the credibility it deserves.

Yet no column about Martha would be complete without the discussion of organization. Many have marveled as she creates amazing systems where things are categorized, synchronized and labeled.

Not only does everything have a place, the end product is often a work of art in itself. In Martha's world, clutter is a four-letter word.

Ironically, this is a very special moment in history for all of us who hide stuff under our beds and couches, have more than five junk drawers and never really know where our scissors are. Instead of having Martha around to give us the message that laziness is for losers, this is our chance to proudly stand

behind our piles of papers and heaps of laundry and enjoy the pretty good life.

After all, who really needs to clean when there are so many scented candles available?

Who needs to decorate when clutter adds so much color on its own? And why does anyone need a recipe when there are so many food items for sale in the freezer section?

Perhaps the bottom line is that with Martha out of the picture, opportunity may be knocking and for those of us who have poo-pooed perceived perfection. I say it's time to sit down, grab a ready-made snack, and invite others to come on in without first taking off their shoes.

While Martha may be suffering through the bitter taste of imprisonment for the first time, the rest of us may finally get to enjoy the fantastic flavor of freedom. Together we can proudly boast the benefits of the pretty good life.

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