

i ♥ my in-laws



CHEAT SHEET

from DINA K. POCH



A few choice pieces of advice, warnings...and games!

The 365 Days of Holidays

If Hallmark has a card to commemorate an occasion, your in-laws want to celebrate it with you. They may not tell you this, but they're thinking it. Why? Because all holidays, big or small, are ultimately about family. Expect pressure in some form on:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Your in-laws say: "Why not come down to Florida and bring the grandkids? It's only twelve hours round-trip and you get the whole day in Boca!"

Arbor Day: Not just for trees anymore, your sister-in-law has a gallery opening...in Des Moines.

4th of July: Your in-laws are going to Atlantic City and you're invited to watch Uncle Larry do body shots off the waitress! Or off of you!

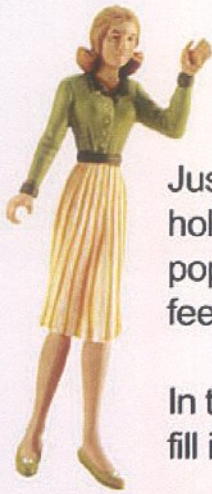
I ♥ the black sheep? All the more reason to rejoice.

There are many benefits to dating the blackest of the black sheep.

On the flip side, your lover has set the bar so low that with every gracious gesture they not only think you're amazing, but you're bridging the family gap with each sweet thank-you note. Thanks for bringing their baby back from the dark side.

Don't like your in-laws? No problem. Your partner has ensured that you will never have to deal with them...your in-laws have already written you off. They assume there is a trash bag filled with human heads in the trunk of your Saturn—I mean, you're dating him, right?

You can go wherever you want for the holidays. They don't expect him to come home ever since that year he was surgically repairing cleft-palate children in Rwanda and missing Christmas. What a grinch.



Game time!

Just when you thought you couldn't handle anything else during the holidays, below is your own personal "release valve." Now, you can pop your cork safely. No one will lose an eye. There will be no hard feelings.

In the spirit of holiday sharing and venting, find the perfect words and fill in the blanks.

For Thanksgiving, my (adjective) mother-in-law is such a (noun that rhymes with 'itch') when it comes to (verb)-ing and (verb)-ing. I should tell her to "(something you do with your lover)" when she asks me to (verb). Someday when she is old and (adjective), I will (professional wrestling move) her wheelchair off a (noun) and reclaim my inner peace.

Need more advice? Read the book.

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For media requests and inquiries
please contact:

Dana Trombley, Publicist

Henry Holt & Co.

Dana.Trombley@hholt.com

646/307-5251

