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Websites that the serious shopper cannot live without

FINDING the right site to buy whatever you want can be simple if your item is readily available — a quick search on Google or check on Amazon and you should find whatever it is. Some presents are a bit more esoteric, however, and have their own specialist sites.

Abebooks.co.uk: what the book your loved one wants is out of print? Abebooks has links to hundreds of second-hand booksellers and the site has its own built-in security.

Anythinglefthanded.co.uk: does exactly what it says on the tin — if your left-handed loved one complains of right-handed knives or scissors, this is the site to visit.

Bettysbypost.com: old-fashioned tea shop and related products — Christmas cakes, a cookshop and elements of personal service.

Thecheeseboard.net: an esoteric as well as traditional selection of about 200 cheeses available to be ordered online. They will even sell you a wedding cake made entirely out of cheese.

Firebox.com: unashamedly bloke-ish gadget shop. Remote control Daleks, coffee makers, beer chillers, chocolate fountains, Borat swimsuits — if it sounds silly the chances are that it will be available here. It is worth also checking at **lwantoneofthose.com**.

Jazzcds.co.uk: deleted and rare jazz CDs, including several that you will normally find only at live gigs. Definitely a goer if your tastes are not catered for by mainstream sites.

Monkbarchocolatiers.co.uk: hand-made chocolates from a small shop in York, for people who want to get

away from corporate chocolate-making giants.

Saveoo.com: you tell the site about what you want, whether it's a mobile phone or an aeroplane, and the suppliers bid against each other to get to the lowest possible price.

Unbeatable.co.uk: For discount electrical goods — which is always good for a sanity check and reliable for an order. Also try **www.empiredirect.co.uk**

GUY CLAPPERTON

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