



DEAR CHERRY

CherryCapri ...America's Queen of Modernism, Manners and Mirth!

Dear Cherry, What is your favorite book? —Curious George

Dear George,
I have several books on my top-ten list. Not all are appropriate for *CA-Modern* coverage, but one is about as mid-mod as it gets. This particular book, which has had an enormous influence on my life, is from 1962: *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Spoiler alert. The book's decisive scene, in which the central character, Meg, is up against a huge evil A.I. machine ("IT")—the thing that's trying to fill the universe with total darkness, remove individuality, and instill conformity through some pretty scary mind control—has a lesson we can all still get behind. Meg finds that she cannot find love for IT, but since her little brother has joined with IT, she can love the darkness through her brother.

Hopefully, someday we will realize that we all are connected on some level. And even if we cannot directly love something or someone, perhaps we can find a sense of love by some other roundabout connection? Remember, wherever we go in life, we all go, because we are all in this world together.

What Jackie DeShannon sang in 1965, a few short years after *A Wrinkle in Time* was written, still holds true today: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." Thank you, Burt Bacharach and Hal David.

Dear Cherry, What do you want to do when you grow up? —Billy the Kid

Dear Kid,
Hahaha! Here's hoping we never grow up.

Dear Cherry, How do you keep your gloves so white? —Darling Deandre

Dear Deandre,
We have seen such an improvement in modern laundry liquids, many people have forgotten about the lost art of using liquid starch. Starch is not only used to keep fabric stiff—like 'starched collars'—but it can also be used as a stain protector.

For me, it's important to keep my white gloves white. Adding a little starch to my load of laundry helps keep them crisp—plus the starch actually prevents

dirt and oils from being absorbed into the fibers of the fabric.

Try it on the underarms of blouses and shirts. If dirt, oil, or perspiration does get on the fabric, it generally attaches itself to the starch, and then simply washes itself in the next laundry load. If you have the type of wardrobe or uniform that requires regular ironing, starch will also be your new best friend, getting your pleats and folds crisper than they have ever been.

Remember, starch must be applied

for a time such as this. After writing my 'Dear Cherry' column for some 15 years now, I have decided to take time off indefinitely. I am sailing home to Hawaii on a nice, short cruise. So my final words of advice to you are this:

1. Take time to smell the roses

This is not just about roses, mind you. This means engage your senses and stay in gratitude. Take a few seconds now and then to appreciate those subtle, often passed-by, delicious moments of life.

When was the last time you paused

pretend you are at a museum—and sit and truly enjoy it.

Don't leave your other senses out in the cold either. Put on the headphones and focus your attention on your favorite music...on an old-fashioned analog stereo. Don't have time for an entire album? Listen to one different song a day and soak up some musical magic.

Finally, speaking of smelling roses, it is tough to find roses that smell these days. Commercially grown roses are hybridized to look pretty and last longer, but with less fragrance.

So, my favorite household flowers with a scent are white carnations and stargazer lilies. If you prefer, plant sweet-smelling plants in your garden: mint, jasmine, or heliotrope will not only make your nose happy, your 'beneficial' insects will thank you, too.

2. Remain a curious monkey

By this I mean: observe animals in their natural habitats. They are always looking around, alert and inquisitive—right? They are not driven by blind emotion. They are driven by analysis and evaluation and instinct.

Or think about little children, especially when they begin to observe the world around them. They say: "why? why? why?" Maybe it's not such a bad thing to become like little children once again?

When you think you have figured something out, don't assume you understand it completely. Be open to new information. This is what critical thinking means. Never ever stop asking questions! It might keep you young at heart forever.

3. Be a good modernist

To me, this means: keep things simple, clean, and minimal. Find ways to streamline your lifestyle—and make room for more important things, like friends and family.

Give away what you don't need to someone less fortunate. Try to not to acquire too many gadgets and gizmos.

Cherry bids farewell: "Until we meet again, I wish you, my dear readers, good health, wealth, and happiness."

• For more Cherry, visit CherryCapri.com

Photography: C.B. Howlie, Taso Papadakis



BON VOYAGE. After 15 years of bringing us 'Dear Cherry,' Cherry Capri (above) says it's time to finally take that extended holiday. Like Mary Ann and the skipper and the rest of the 'Gilligan's Island' crew before her, Cherry will soon be climbing aboard a tiny ship for a fateful trip...on a 'three-hour tour...a three-hour tour.'

when the fabric is wet. So put it in the final cycle of your laundry after a spin dry. Let your items soak and agitate a little, then spin again. If you have already washed your items, you can simply spray down with water the area you wish to treat, and then spritz a little starch on top as added protection against 'no more ring around the collar!'

Dear Cherry, Do you have any sage life advice? —Rosemary from Redwood City

Dear Rosemary,
I have had your question around for some time now...and was saving it



HOLIDAY FUN. Cherry's new book (pictured here), *'One Toy, Two Toys, Too Many...'* will be out just in time for holiday gifting 2020. "I think it's a good book for children of all ages," Cherry says. "It features a friendly family of blue avian aliens who have to figure out what to do when they have two toys too many!" Available at Amazon.

to enjoy the simple splendor of a sunset? Do it tonight! Admire that painting or picture that is on your wall. You loved it enough to hang it, so pause now—