

Sheila's Out Shopping: Surprise package

By Sheila Mesulam

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My favorite treat as a youngster was Cracker Jacks. Not for the caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts, but the surprise at the bottom of the box. I always hoped to get a ring but — well, I was happy with whatever trinket I found.

As a grown-up I still like things that surprise. This week I found a few as I shopped.

HomeHero's kitchen fire extinguisher (\$24.87) from Home Depot is so artfully designed you don't have to hide it in the cabinet under the sink. The white, slim and lovely cylinder can sit on your counter.

Naples Cyclery has a Giant brand bicycle called the Halfway (\$500) that folds in half for easy storage. It has seven speeds and comes with a bell, rack and storage bag. At only 19 pounds, it's a good fit for condos, boats and train trips.

The Kone by Dirt Devil (\$39.99) at Target is a little vacuum that doesn't look like one. Clean-ups will be fast and easy when you reach for this sleek appliance. Leave it in plain sight and no one will guess what it is.

Camileon Heels specializes in shoes that adjust from 3 1/4-inch to 1 1/2-inch tall and are sold exclusively in Naples at Sole Desire. Walk in ease and then flip-up the heels for glamour. The red patent slide (\$259) also comes in black.

Pop-up books are the biggest surprise of all. You don't know what is going to happen until you turn the page and then, like magic, the story comes alive. Borders Books Music Movies & Cafe had a choice of children's pop-ups. I really liked the "Wonderful Wizard of Oz," (\$25.95) by L. Frank Baum and art by Robert Sabuda and "Richard Scarry's Busiest Pop-up Ever," (\$19.99). Baseball fans won't have to wait till spring when they get "Let's Make Noise At the Ball Park." (\$12.95) This big pop-up also makes sounds.

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Where to shop

-- Borders Books Music Movies & Cafe, 10600 U.S. 41 N., Naples, 596-7199

-- Home Depot, 1651 Airport-Pulling Road, Naples, 793-2203

-- Naples Cyclery, 813 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples, 566-0600 and 27820 U.S. 41 S., Bonita Springs, 949-0026

-- Sole Desire, Venetian Village, 4370 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples, 430-2115

-- Target, 2324 Pine Ridge Road, 435-0051; 26831 U.S. 41 S., Bonita Springs, 948-2300; and 13711 U.S. 41 S., Fort Myers, (239) 481-8860

Trunk shows

Marissa Collections is having the following trunk shows: Cassin (designer apparel) today and Saturday; Helene Handbags Monday and Tuesday; Janie Jacobs (jewelry), Monday-Wednesday; and Melinda Eng (evening gowns), Tuesday and Wednesday. It's all at 1167 Third St. S., Naples, (877) 263-4333.

