



FRAN DRESCHER

Actor, author and founder of the nonprofit foundation Cancer Schmancer (cancerschmancer.org)

Most meaningful gift: "One holiday my girlfriend asked me if we could stop by the home of one of her neighbors — a woman who'd been battling breast cancer all year — because it would mean so much to her. I said, 'Of course, and I'll bring her an autographed copy of my book [*Cancer Schmancer* (Warner Books, 2003)].' When we arrived, she said, 'I already have the book — read the whole thing in 24 hours. It got me through so much. When I was going through chemotherapy and I'd sit in the living room with my husband and my two young boys, sometimes I wanted to burst into tears. But instead like a mantra, my husband and I would look at each other and say, "Cancer Schmancer." That was the best holiday gift I ever received — that my own story had a profound effect on her."

Least meaningful gift: "A bathroom scale! I don't want to be reminded of my weight on the holidays, and I don't care how futuristic, high-tech or state-of-the-art it looks to you in the catalog. I found the gift to be very passive-aggressive. What was the person trying to say? That's what I'd like to know."

