

It is gut wrenching but not everyone reveres quilts like a quilter.

Christmas was fast approaching.

She had been piecing portions of the Christmas Tree Skirt between classes for a degree in Veterinary Medicine and caring for her husband and newborn son. Her sewing time was precious.

“How is your Christmas dress coming along,” asks her husband. He wants to let her know that he is aware of her sewing skills. “It’s not a dress,” she explains again. “It’s a Christmas Tree Skirt.”

The project was coming along just fine. Soon the tree would be up, a little one, this year. And then she would place the tree skirt around the stand for a holiday ambiance. She had been working so long on the red and green fabric pieces, her first quilt. It would decorate the room just fine, she thought.

“Is your dress done, yet?” asks her groom.

“IT IS NOT A DRESS,” she says in capital letters stressing the point. “It is for the tree. I will put it on the floor and spread it around the tree for decoration,” she explains.

“Ahh,” comes his reply. “Okay.”

Twenty years later they laugh about the error. Every year when the skirt dresses the base of the tree the couple laughs out loud. The misunderstanding is a gift which keeps on giving. “We still have the tree skirt and we decorate the tree with it every year,” says the quilter smiling.

However, when there is no one to explain the ins and outs of quilting, the comprehension may not ever reach the non-quilter.

“Hey mom, look at this. Do you want a Christmas Tree skirt for your tree this year?” asks a young woman who, with her mom, is searching for gifts at, yet, another holiday festival.

“No,” replies mom. “Those quilters don’t know how to sew. They let the sewing lines show. I don’t like to see the sewing.” The two ladies walked on, looking for the perfect gifts. Perhaps they would be fortunate to find a quilt with no sewing marks; however, at a quilt show and festival the search will be a long one.

Quilters value their stitches. Seldom is a quilt gift given for the dogs in the family. “I couldn’t believe that they two of them allowed their dogs to sleep on the queen size quilt which I made for their wedding gift,” she told us. So, I gathered up the quilt which was on the floor in the corner of the living room and stomped out of the house.”

The auntie was furious. The couple didn’t understand. The dogs in the family are their children and are worthy of a wonderful gift of a quilt from a family member. Perhaps, though, they would feel the same if they discovered that their watercolor painting gift was secured to the wall behind the toilet in the bathroom: it being the most revered room in the house.

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