

Vin Diesel Sings Cover of Rihanna Song for Longtime Girlfriend



By Andrea Surujnauth

Vin Diesel decided to give his longtime girlfriend, Paloma Jimenez, an original Valentine's Day present this year. *The Fast and The Furious* star recorded himself singing Rihanna's hit song "Stay" for Jimenez with the help of his daughter. According to [People](#), he dedicated the touching lyrics to her and took his fans by surprise with his performance. "People say 'I didn't know you were a Rihanna fan?' " he says. "How could you not be a fan of her voice, her gift?"

What are some vocal gifts you can give your partner in lieu of a present?

Cupid's Advice:

Flowers, chocolates, and stuffed animals, they are nice but they seem to be so commercial and unoriginal. You want to show your honey that they mean the world to you, but how can you do that without breaking the bank? No worries, Cupid can help you with that!

1. Sing a song: Pull a Vin Diesel and sing your sweetheart a touching song. Find a mic and pick a song that expresses just how much you love your partner. To make it even more romantic, sing it to them in person.

2. Get creative: Write a song for your sweetie! Mention a romantic or funny moment you had with them or mention how you met in your song. Your honey will be very grateful and impressed by the time and energy you took to put this present together.

3. Cant sing?: Okay so you want to give your partner something romantic and original, similar to a song, but you do not have much of a singing voice. Write your beau a poem then read it to them in person. It is just as good as singing a song and reading it in person will make your partner feel special.

What kind of vocal gifts would you give your partner in lieu of a present? Comment below and let us know.

Angela Kinsey Says Her Love Life Is 'Like Dating in the Renaissance'



By Meghan Fitzgerald

41-year old *Office Star*, Angela Kinsey spent her Valentine's Day with her 4-year old daughter, Isabel. Kinsey told [People](#), "My daughter and I are going to make our own Valentines! We've got stickers, markers. I love going to Target and hitting the arts and crafts aisle." Kinsey talked to *The Celebrity Cafe* about co-parenting, and she insists that both she and her ex really have respect for one another. Kinsey is grateful for her relationship with ex-husband, Warren Lieberstein.

What are some ways to take things slow after your divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

After a divorce, your emotions are all over the place. Jumping into another relationship may seem like a great idea or something which will never happen. There are many ways to take things slow after your divorce. Cupid has some advice:

1. Dating: You will most likely have two opinions on dating

after a divorce. You either want to delve into a relationship again and attempt to find love. Or you want to crawl up in your bed, and never leave. With dating after a divorce, you need to make sure that you take things slow. You need to completely know what you want in your dating life before you jump right in to it.

2. Know what you want: With your emotions everywhere, knowing what you want in life is challenging. You absolutely should not die your hair a “cool” color and get your nose pierced. Look through the haze of the divorce and realize exactly what you want. This will be hard to do however, you need to make sure you know what you want before you act on it.

3. Take time for yourself: After a divorce, you need to spend time with yourself. You need to realize that the one person who will always love you, is yourself. Spending time with yourself can clarify problems in your life which need to be solved. You can rethink your divorce and your past relationship as much as you’d like with yourself. Take bubble baths, drink wine, write down your feelings, exercise, and eat healthy. Do things for you.

Did you take things slow after your divorce? Explain below!

Giveaway: Lyric Culture: Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve for All to See



This post is sponsored by Lyric Culture.

By Nicole Cavanagh

With Valentine's Day being yesterday, love is certainly in the air. They say that "you are what you wear," so there's no better way to express and celebrate the love in your life than with unique gifts from Lyric Culture, a company who always makes sure to "put a whole lotta love into every design."

Since music is the language of love, singer-songwriter Hanna-Rochelle, who founded the company in 2006, decided to marry fashion with her love of music and bring artists' words to life. Lyric Culture is a music-inspired lifestyle brand based on the song lyrics of legendary artists such as Bob Marley, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and Pink Floyd as well as current hits made famous by Rihanna, Usher and Carrie Underwood. They produce an assortment of creative, stylish, and bold apparel, jewelry, accessories and home goods. We especially love their adorable and comfortable decorative pillows!

If you're hoping to accessorize better this spring, look no further than our Lyric Culture giveaway! CupidsPulse.com is giving away two love-filled Lyric Culture products to two lucky readers: the Bold as Love by Jimi Hendrix scarf (\$65) and the All You need is Love necklace (\$35), inspired by The Beatles hit song.

"Call it a modern twist on wearing your heart on your sleeve. So, go ahead...say it with a song."

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** To enter for a chance to win either the Lyric Culture scarf or necklace, go to our Facebook page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the winners via Facebook when the contest is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, February 22nd. Good luck!~~

This giveaway is now closed. Thank you to all who entered!

10 Steps to a Remarkable Relationship





By Harriet Lerner,

Ph.D.

This Valentine's Day, give your partner the best gift of all – a remarkable relationship! Dr. Harriet Lerner, one of our nation's most loved and respected relationship experts, reminds us that while it takes two people to couple up, it only takes one to make things a whole lot better. Here's how:

1. Warm your Partner's Heart. Make a concerted effort to focus on the positive. Do three little things every day that make your partner feel loved, valued and special.

2. Dial Down the Criticism. People become more allergic to criticism over time. Remember this: No one can survive in a marriage (at least not happily) if they feel more judged than admired.

Related: [How to Master Being in a Relationship](#)

3. Apologize. You can say, "I'm sorry for my part of the problem" even if you're secretly convinced that you're only 28% to blame.

4. Don't Demand an Apology. Don't get into a tug of war about his failure to apologize. An entrenched non-apologizer may use a nonverbal way to try to defuse tension, reconnect after

a fight, or show he's in a new place and wants to move toward you.

Related: [What Kim Kardashian Taught Me About Marriage](#)

5. Stop Being So Defensive. Defensiveness is the archenemy of listening. The next time your partner has a criticism try to listen only to understand—that is, no interrupting, offering advice, defending your position, or correcting facts. Save your defense for a second conversation.

6. Say it Shorter! Your partner may avoid conversation because it feels awful to him. Sometimes the culprit is the sheer number of sentences and the intensity in our voice. Slow down your speech, turn down the volume, and make your criticism in three sentences or less.

7. Sweat the Small Stuff. When you say you'll do something, do it! Never assume that your overall contribution to the marriage compensates for failing to do what you say you'll do, whether it's picking up your socks or moving the boxes out of the garage by Sunday.

8. Know Your Bottom Line. Be flexible in changing for your partner 84% of the time, but don't sacrifice your core values, beliefs and priorities under relationship pressures.

9. Be self-focused. Connect with friends and family, pursue your interests, and be of service of others. If your primary energy isn't directed to living your own life as well as possible, you'll be over-focused on your partner in a worried or critical way.

10. Choose happiness over winning the argument. Your partner's happiness and the tone of your marriage mean a whole more than who is right and who is to blame. Don't lock yourself into negativity at the expense of your happiness and well-being. Step aside from old anger and hurt.

Harriet Lerner, Ph.D., author of Marriage Rules, is a clinical psychologist whose many acclaimed books have topped six million copies in combined sales. She is a dynamic, sought-after speaker who has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, and NPR, and she hosts The Dance of Connection blog on psychologytoday.com.

Long-Term Relationships: 5 Ways to Keep the Spark Alive



By Christina

Steinorth MA MFT

I wanted to get away from the more standard type of Valentine's Day articles that seem to surround gifts and intimacy, so I asked this question on my Facebook page: *What topic should I write about for Valentine's Day?*

While I received many great answers, one that seemed to pop up more than others was: *What about an article for those of us who are in long-term relationships or have been married for many years?* I gave it some thought, and my fans were right—there isn't a lot of advice relating to Valentine's Day and long-term relationships.

I loved the idea.

As many of you know, come April, I will have been married to my husband for 14 years (we've been together for almost 16). While we don't have the hot, crazy, spark of love we may have had at the start of our relationship, what we have now is something far sexier—a deep understanding and admiration for each other that makes our love life even *more* passionate than it was when we first got together. We didn't get to this point by accident though—it has taken a lot of work and as well as consistent effort on both of our parts.

Related: [4 Steps to a Stronger Long Term Relationship](#)

Here are my five best tips for those of you who are in longer term relationships to keep your spark alive:

1. Start doing things together. A lot times, especially in longer term relationships, we start to live our own lives so to speak and do less and less things with our partners. Start doing activities together three to five times a week—go for a walk, go for a bike ride or shop for and cook a meal together once a week. It will bring you closer and give you shared experiences to bond over.

2. Touch each other and do it often. Touch doesn't need to be sexual to draw us closer to our partner. Rub each other's shoulders from time-to-time. Hold hands when you walk. When we touch each other, it helps us feel more connected with one another.

Related: [What's Love Got to Do With It?](#)

3. Be someone your partner will *want* to spend time with. Put the nagging and criticism aside and be charming, fun and engaging again—our partners are more drawn to us when we're happy.

4. Reconnect with each other for at least ten minutes a day. Do it either before you get out of bed in the morning, or before you go to sleep at night or any other time during the day that you can sneak off and have ten minutes of uninterrupted conversation. Power down all of your electronics, make eye contact and just talk. It doesn't need to be serious—just talk about your day and what your plans are for tomorrow. Have light hearted chit-chat—it will help stop you from drifting apart from one another and it will help bring the spark back.

5. Act loving even when you don't feel like it because people will always remember how you make them feel. If you don't have loving words to share, loving actions can go a long way too.

Christina Steinorth MA MFT is a psychotherapist and a popular relationship expert on radio and in print. Her advice has been featured in publications such as Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Woman's Day, Fox News Magazine, and The Chicago Tribune, among many others. Her critically acclaimed new book is 'Cue Cards for Life: Thoughtful Tips for Better Relationships' (Hunter House, 2013). Learn more at <http://www.christinasteinorth.com>.

Ways to Forget Your Singledom This VDay



By Meghan Laslocky

If you're single on Valentine's Day, don't be grumpy about it! If you're proactive and plan ahead, there are a thousand ways you can enjoy VDay, even if you're flying solo. Here are a few ideas:

1. Get a good workout in, either at the gym or outside. Really, there is nothing like a little rush of endorphins to chase away the VDay blues. Remember that there could well be tons of other singles doing just the same thing at the gym, so keep your eyes peeled. Get your workout done early in the day, before work or during lunch, so that you have the evening free for other plans.

Related: [How to Make Your Lady Feel Special This Valentine's Day](#)

2. Gather your single friends for a rollicking night at home. If you're up for cooking, here's a great recipe for burgers with spinach and arugula pesto that goes well with a Zinfandel. Or you might want to consider this totally amazing butternut squash gratin, which you can assemble the night before and then just pop in the oven. (Pair that one with a nice Viognier.) If you don't cook, then order takeout for a crowd! After dinner, play a board game like Pictionary or Scattergories, battle of the sexes style.

3. Get your friends together for a whiskey tasting (whisky is the new black, after all). Kink it up with blindfolds. In a blind taste test, who can tell the difference between an Irish whiskey and a single malt scotch, or a bourbon and a rye?

Related: [Surviving Valentine's Day](#)

4. Movie night! A few suggestions if you want to stay in: "Lost in Austen" is a hilarious 3-hour British mini-series in which 21st century Jane Austen fan switches places with Pride and Prejudice's Elizabeth Bennet. If you want to steer clear of love stories all together and you're game for dark, quirky foreign comedy, check out the Danish film "Adam's Apples," with Mads Mikkelsen. Or head to the cinema and laugh your socks off over Bruce Willis jumping through glass ceilings in "A Good Day to Die Hard."

5. Go see a comedy show. Valentine's Day makes for great fodder for comedians! Check out your local comedy clubs for what's coming up on February 14.

6. Peruse local listings for creative singles events. Some bookstores host Valentine's Day speed dating events geared toward readers, bars host "no love song" karaoke nights, and some cities like San Francisco even host flash-mob style V-Day pillow fights!

So, if you're single, there's no reason why V-Day has to feel

like D-Day. All it takes is some creativity and positive thinking and just about anyone can have a fun, memorable Valentine's Day.

Meghan Laslocky is the author of 'The Little Book of Heartbreak: Love Gone Wrong Through the Ages' (Plume/Penguin).

Making Valentine's Day Fun Again!



By Eleanore Wells

When did Valentine's Day become such a BIG deal? At some point when I wasn't looking, it went from being a lighthearted, fun, semi-holiday to another over-the-top, loud, commercial holiday that comes with feelings of annoyance and angst for so many. It's not really about who you love anymore; instead, it's

about gifts and lavish displays of...well, I'm not sure what.

As a kid, I loved this holiday. I got such a kick out of giving out cards with big red hearts on them to all the people who made me happy. I gave them to my parents, my teachers, my favorite classmates, my playmates and even my mailman. Back then, Valentine's Day was fun, and it was an excuse to tell the people who make you happy how much they mean to you. Romance had nothing to do with it when I was ten years old.

Years later, I received a beautiful bouquet of roses from a guy I'd broken up with about seven months earlier. We weren't really speaking, and he's not the sentimental type, so I was more than a little suspect. I called the florist and learned that, back when we were still dating, he had set up an automatic "send her flowers on Valentine's Day" thingy. So each Valentine's Day, when I was so pleased with his thoughtfulness, he really hadn't given it much thought at all. Well, maybe the first time...

Related Link: [How to Make Your Lady Feel Special This Valentine's Day](#)

I laughed and said nothing. It took him another two or three years to remember that he had me on automatic delivery, and I continued to enjoy my flowers each year. It had nothing to do with him or the romantic day. I just like pretty flowers.

Then, there was the guy who "surprised" me with a ginormous ten-pound box of chocolates. It was a surprise because I don't really like chocolate, and he certainly should have known that because we'd talked about it many times. I guess he only *pretended* to be listening.

Jennifer Lopez has been quoted as saying, "Love to me is someone telling me, 'I want to be with you for the rest of my life, and if you needed me to, I'd jump out of a plane for you.'" Can you imagine the pressure her guy feels on

Valentine's Day?!

For too many single women, Valentine's Day is a loud reminder that they have no man (or woman, in some cases) in their life to love. It's a loud reminder of their sad, lonely lives...even though, on most days, their lives are not very sad and not that lonely. And the lead-up to it is fraught with anxiety because "whatever will she do" on this day when happy couples all over the country are celebrating? (Even though that isn't really happening.)

Related Link: [5 Tips for Single Moms to Survive Valentine's Day](#)

When I'm not in a relationship on Valentine's Day, I like to enjoy a dinner or some other outing with people who make me laugh. Not a gloomy, woeful dinner with whiny people who are miserable about being single, but a fun dinner with interesting and delightful people who happen to be single...single for now or single forever.

And that – or something on the list below – is what I recommend for everybody. I wish Valentine's Day were less about romance and more about an opportunity to remind people that you love them or tell them for the first time that you enjoy their company, that they matter to you. Let's reclaim Valentine's Day and experience it like we did when we were kids by injecting some much-needed lightheartedness into it.

1. Go bowling or plan some other group outing for people you know and enjoy but may not see as often as you'd like. It's a great excuse to reconnect!
2. Volunteer at a nursing home or children's organization and surprise them with Valentine's Day cards and trinkets so they can share in the day's fun too.
3. Treat yourself – and maybe even someone else – to flowers. Flowers can brighten anyone's day.

4. Buy a pack of Valentine's Day cards and give them to anybody and everybody you want.

Let's make Valentine's Day about love instead of romance: love of great people, love of laughter, love of life. And you don't need a date for that!

Creative Dating on a Dime for Valentine's Day



By Mary Humphreys

for Galttime.com

Valentine's Day is coming and romance is in the air. So what if you are looking to meet someone new but are tight on funds? Don't worry, you don't need fancy dinners and limo rides to spark a romance with someone. All you need is a personal

connection, and we've come up with some great date ideas that can create connections on a budget.

Get online to go offline

Hanging out at a club or going on blind dates can get expensive while you are trying to find that special someone. Get out of the bars and onto your computer. With free trial periods and coupon codes galore, you can try out even the most popular paid dating sites without making the commitment of paying full price. That way you can set up as many dates as you'd like. And the beginning of the year is the most popular time to start dating online, so now's a great chance to check out the largest pool of new daters.

Let's Take This Outside

Planning something active outdoors is one of the best ways to spark a connection with another person. And depending on your city and the weather, there are lots of great active dates you can plan.

Act like a kid: If your town's a winter wonderland right now, suggest doing some of your favorite activities from childhood. Grab your ice skates and head to an outdoor skating rink. Dive headfirst down a hill on your sleds. Have a snowball fight from your opposing snow forts. Build your own Frosty the Snowman. Or just fall into the fresh snow and make snow angels. You can even pack a thermos of hot chocolate to keep you warm in the cold.

This will help break the ice (no pun intended) and help showcase your playful side, and hopefully give you a glimpse at his inner child. Any of these activities are guaranteed to spark laughs and some deep conversations about how each of you grew up. It's perfect for that getting-to-know-you stage.

Get active and release some endorphins: If the weather's a

little warmer, try working up a little bit of a sweat. Go for a hike; it'll give you plenty of quiet time to get to know each other and nature is a perfect backdrop to spark conversation when there's a lull. Go for a bike ride through the park. Exercise will also release endorphins in your body that will help in making that love connection.

Stay-At-Home Romance

Looking for a date that won't make you and your honey head out into the cold? These dates are probably better suited for a little later on in the relationship, but they can be great, cozy ways to get to know each other better.

Movie theater-style movie night: Take a trip to a local grocery store to pick out all your favorite movie snacks and either grab a great movie rental or use an online video streaming service like Netflix or Amazon Instant Video and throw yourselves a theater-style night at home. Bonus if it's cold outside, so you have an extra excuse to cuddle.

Top Chef meal: Pick out a recipe or two that you've wanted to try and go out to buy the ingredients together at a farmer's market or a local grocery store. Then cook up your creations at home and give yourself ratings. For extra fun, come up with a challenge to complete, like incorporating an unusual ingredient or technique.

Hometown Tourist

If you've never played tourist in your hometown, now's the time. Look online for free walking tours or just head out to the most popular tourist attractions and take your camera.

Try a history lesson: Hit up some of the most famous landmarks and tourist attractions in your city, although avoid any tourist traps, they tend to overcharge unsuspecting tourists. Take a tour of an old, historic building. Learning new information will not only give you something to talk about,

but will also give you something to bond over on future dates.

Use culture to spark a conversation: Often museums offer free entrance once a month or on specific days, and looking at art is a great way to spark a conversation. If you check ahead of time, you may be able to get a great deal on entrance.

Get close on an adventure: Looking for something a little more obscure? Check out Geocaching. Using a GPS device or your smartphone, you can locate hidden containers left all around the world by other Geocachers, get your hands on some cool little treasures, and leave your own artifacts behind. Geocaches are stashed in a wide range of places, from hidden city nooks to remote wilderness spots, so you can explore wherever you are.

QuickieChick's Video Dating Tips: How to Have the BEST Valentine's Day Ever





By [E!'s Famosly Single Dating Coach, Laurel House](#)

Dating Advice from E!'s *Famosly Single* Laurel House on Valentine's Day

Are you *still* wondering how to celebrate Valentine's Day this year? Dating mentor Laurel House admits that this holiday has always been stressful for her (even in elementary school!). In this week's [dating advice](#) video, relationship expert and E!'s *Famosly Single* dating coach, Laurel House shares her tips for taking charge and overcoming the disappointment of past years' unmet expectations. Plus, the dating expert reveals how to have the best Valentine's Day ever, whether you're single or part of a couple. Listen up, and you're sure to discover the perfect idea for tomorrow's big day!

For more information about our dating mentor, click [here](#).

For more videos from [CupidsPulse.com](#), check out our [YouTube channel](#).

What are your Valentine's Day plans? Tell us in the comments below!

We're Breaking Up: Virgin Mobile Presents National Break Up Day



By Nicole Cavanagh

Tomorrow is Valentines Day, which is supposed to be the day of love, right? Well, it may surprise you to hear that a recent survey conducted by Virgin Mobile found that 59 percent of people said that, if they were planning to break up with a boyfriend or girlfriend around Valentine's Day, they would do it before the big day in order to save money.

While you may be a hopeless romantic ready to celebrate a day full of bliss, others have decided now is the best time to move on from a bad relationship. 42 percent of people surveyed said they have stayed in dead-end relationships because they

were scared to make a change and try something new. If you want to break up with someone but feel like you can't because of Valentine's Day, you don't have to feel bad any longer! Why not cut the loose ends and put some extra money and happiness back in your pocket? Why put off for tomorrow what could be done today?

For that reason, Virgin Mobile has proclaimed February 13th to be "National Breakup Day." Finally, people across the country have an incentive to break free from a troubled relationship before they spend Valentine's Day with an unworthy partner. Just in case you don't know how to break the news, relationship experts from OkCupid are taking over the @VirginMLive Twitter handle. Use the hashtag #CupidConfessions to ask questions and learn how to make your online dating profile more desirable, so you can mend your broken heart and find someone new.

Even if you are newly single this Valentine's Day, remember that you aren't alone. Check out these statistics below:

1. Half (50 percent) of Americans ages 18-24 have experienced a breakup via texting, email, or social media, with 26 percent of that age group experiencing a breakup through text message specifically.
2. 10 percent of people have experienced a breakup on or around Valentine's Day (same week), with that number being 17 percent for 18-24 year olds.
3. When asked about when they change their Facebook relationship status after a breakup, 84 percent said within two days, including 41 percent doing so immediately so others know they are back on the market.
4. 43 percent said the silver lining in a breakup is a chance to find a better, more rewarding relationship, while 26 percent cited freedom to do what they want.

Let's face it – we're pretty much in a relationship with our phone carrier too. A carrier can either put a smile on our faces with their excellent service and low rates or bring us to tears when we drop that important call or a huge bill comes at the end of the month. So why not celebrate National Breakup Day with your phone carrier as well? Virgin Mobile will pay up to 100 dollars of termination fees for any customer that switches to Virgin Mobile, making it even easier to leave their unhappy relationship with their current phone carrier and save an average of 1,000 dollars (compared to two-year contracts with other carriers). Also, for today only, Virgin Mobile USA will give online customers 100 dollars off the purchase of a new Samsung Galaxy SII 4G on a Beyond Talk no-contract plan.

Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart Share a Romantic Dinner in Time for VDay





By Andrea Surujnauth

Celebrity lovebirds are celebrating Valentines Day early this year. Jennifer Lopez and her boyfriend Casper Smart were seen sharing a romantic dinner Friday night at Cenconi's in West Hollywood. A source told [People](#) that the couple was "canoodling at the table". Lopez and her beau sat close as they had dinner together but there were no public displays of affection. The source also adds that "They were sweet together and Jennifer was laughing all night long," Lopez has been dating Smart since fall of 2011.

What are some ways to make dinner with your partner romantic?

Cupid's Advice:

Restaurants are always packed on Valentines Day. It can be a struggle to get reservations and make your partner's Valentines day romantic and special. But no need to worry! Cupid is here with some advice on how to make a dinner at home romantic for your beau!

1. Create a special dinner: Make your sweetheart's favorite dishes. This is sure to make your partner feel special and loved.

2. Decorate: Light some candles and put some roses on the

table. Decorations are key to setting the romantic mood. If you want to go all out, play some sweet love songs in the background as well!

3. Dress to impress: Dress up and have your partner dress up too. This will make the dinner feel more special and less like a regular dinner at home.

How do you make your dinner romantic for your partner? Comment below and let us know.

Q&A: How Can We Celebrate Valentine's Day In a Special Way If My Boyfriend and I Are Apart?





Question from

Candace M.: *My boyfriend and I are both traveling for work on Valentine's Day, but we don't want to miss out on celebrating the romantic holiday. How can we share our love for each other in a unique and special way even though we're miles apart?*

Answer from Our Love Experts:

Tristan Coopersmith, Love Stylist: Valentine's Day is all about expressions of love that go outside of your normal handholding, "love ya's", dinner and a movie, etc. Valentine's Day is about passion! It is about over the top "I love you's!" It is about celebrating your unique love in a memorable way.

So when your love is distanced by miles and maybe even a time zone, your best bet is to use technology to your advantage. Instead of sending a dozen roses, send a dozen love texts. Instead of a reservation-only prix-fixe dinner date, opt for a candlelit Skype dinner for two, complete with an Evite. Instead of a decadent dessert with one spoon, try sending a box of homemade goodies. And as for the naughty lingerie show, you can keep that one... thank you, FaceTime!

Happy Valentine's Day, lovers!

[Suzanne Oshima, Matchmaker](#): Trust me, with this unique idea,

your boyfriend will have the best Valentine's Day ever! Starting two days before Valentine's Day, surprise him with a few teaser messages. Send him steamy text messages and take photos of you in sexy lingerie, giving him subtle hints about what you have in store for him on Valentine's Day.

Then, on the big day...

His first gift: Surprise him and have the hotel staff deliver him breakfast in bed with all his favorite foods.

His second gift: Send him some more sexy photos and messages in the morning and afternoon.

His third gift: This gift must be sent to the hotel in advance, just make sure they don't deliver it to him until that night. Give him a super sexy video of you, your hottest panties sprayed with your favorite perfume and a few aphrodisiac foods (like almonds, bananas and chocolate).

After he opens his third gift, end the night with a live Skype session with you.

Your boyfriend will be so excited to see you when you're both home again...so be sure to answer the door in a racy outfit. Your man will think you're the hottest woman ever!

For more information on our three relationship gurus, click [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like answered by our experts, please submit them on our [Contact Page](#).

How have you celebrated a holiday when you and your loved one are apart? Tell us in the comments below!

Giveaway: Datevitation: A Valentine's Day Gift That Your Partner Will Never Forget



This post is

sponsored by Datevitation.

By Whitney Baker

Whether you've been dating your man for a few weeks or a few years, planning a spontaneous and unique date is never easy. Not only do you have to think of something that you've never done before, but you have to find an activity that you'll both (hopefully) enjoy. And with holidays like Valentine's Day come an added pressure to please your partner.

[Datevitation](#) is here to help. Datevitation is the first and

only fully customizable book of date coupons, allowing you to create a one-of-a-kind gift for your significant other. The library is full of hundreds of date ideas, ranging from simple gestures of love (like stargazing and cuddling) to adventurous activities (including skydiving and scuba-diving) to ways to reignite the romance in your relationship (like recreating your first date or enjoying a couples massage). You can change the text of each coupon to include a silly inside joke or sweet reminder of your love. Plus, you can personalize your coupon book with a special cover and heartfelt message on the first page. Books start at \$20, which includes five date coupons.



Thanks to Datevitation, you'll never have to wonder about what to do on your next date night. Plus, your boyfriend or girlfriend will be touched by your thoughtfulness and excited for the dates to come! In honor of Valentine's Day, two lucky CupidsPulse.com readers will receive a code to create a Datevitation gift book worth \$50.

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT: To enter for a chance to win a Datevitation gift book, go to our Facebook page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the winners via Facebook when the giveaway is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, February 20. Good luck!**~~

Congratulations to Raz Kassam and Stacey Plapinger!

5 Ways to Find a Last Minute Date for Valentine's Day



By Susan Trombetti

[Valentine's Day](#) is fast approaching ladies, so instead of spending another year sitting at home and sulking if you're [single](#), it's time to take action. Just because it's two weeks away, doesn't mean you can't have a date. Follow these simple and fun steps to land that date night on the most [romantic](#) night of the year.

1. Get on Facebook. Check out friends of friends. When you spot the right guy or girl for you, be sure to email your friend to ask if it is okay to email or friend request after getting the scoop on him or her. You want to make sure this person is single and truly available. After all, you are

looking for more than a Valentine's Day [date](#). You need to find your [true love](#), and if he/she is hung up on someone else or is a player, this just won't work.

Related: [Is That You, Mr. Right?](#)

2. Online Dating. Don't overlook this because this is where the single people are (okay, they are supposed to all be single). They are looking for a valentine's date, too. I like EHarmony. I feel if you are a quality catch, have a great professional photo in your hot red dress, and you get some help writing your profile, you will have a ton of potential dates. The problem will be who to pick, but then that is a good problem to have. Just be sure to pick people for all the right reasons.

Related: [3 Benefits of Meeting People Online](#)

3. Think of Valentine's day as a fun excuse, whether you are a guy or a girl, to just ask anyone out you have been dying to ask out but didn't have the nerve. It's a great time to ask the person you have been crushing on for a long time, or that single coworker on another floor.

4. Pass out those drug store valentines cards that you used to give and receive when you were a little kid in 1st grade. Hershey kisses work well with the cards, or by themselves. Pass them out to every single person you can find. It is bound to be received with a smile, and you should line up at least a few dates if you go about it in a fun way. Pass them out to singles in your apartment building, job, or even starbucks. Try your local bookstore. Just get creative and find some cute single, and go for it. It's corny, but it's one of the few times you can get away with it.

5. Every neighborhood has a social calendar of events with Charitable functions, or just fun things to do. Be sure to check out the calendar in advance of Valentine's day and go

out and meet someone at one of these events. There are a lot of single events also around this time. Be sure to attend and meet someone. Be bold and put yourself out there and show your interest.

So what happens if you don't land that Valentine's Date. Don't sweat it too much. Rally up your single girlfriends and head out to your favorite spot. There's bound to be groups of single men hanging out, just like you and your girlfriends.

Susan Trombetti is an expert matchmaker and member of the Professional Matchmakers Association. She has helped many discerning singles discover long-term relationships and partnerships that are both rewarding and fulfilling through her business, [Exclusive Matchmaking](#). She's also been featured in several top dating/relationship magazines and websites including Cosmopolitan and iVillage.

**Giveaway: Embrace Your
Feminine Self with fantasy
twist and Couture La La**





This post is

sponsored by Elizabeth Arden.

By Whitney Baker

They say that scent is one of the primary forms of attraction. Lucky for you, in today's perfume world, there are so many fragrances to choose from that you're sure to find one that pleases your partner's senses. For those of you who have yet to discover a scent that screams (or smells like) "you," Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to continue your search. Two fragrances that you must try are Britney Spears's *fantasy twist* and Juicy Couture's *Couture La La*.

fantasy twist gives you not one but two scents to make your own. Joining two of Spears's best-selling fragrances in one unique package, it includes *fantasy*, a potion of succulent fruits, white florals and creamy musk that results in a cupcake accord, and *MIDNIGHT fantasy*, an intoxicating blend of woody musks, vanilla and exotic fruits. As the pop star said, "I wanted to combine two of my favorite fragrances into a sophisticated bottle, giving my fans the power to choose the scent they desire at any given moment."

With *Couture La La*, Juicy Couture introduces their second fragrance, which reveals the daring and unexpected side of the

well-known Juicy girl. “She’s confident and fearless but at the same time flirty and feminine,” LeAnn Nealz, President and Chief Creative Officer of Juicy Couture, explains. “*Couture La La* evokes her free spirit, and in turn, she makes a statement without even trying.” If this woman sounds like you, this fragrance, which blends sparkling fruits, white florals and smooth wood, is the perfect one to spray.

And now for the fun part: we’re giving away two bottles each of these two delightful fragrances. Four CupidsPulse.com readers will win a bottle of either Britney Spears’s *fantasy twist* or Juicy Couture’s *Couture La La* – just in time to impress your man after Valentine’s Day!

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** To enter for a chance to win a bottle of BRITNEY SPEARS’s *fantasy twist* or Juicy Couture’s *Couture La La*, go to our Facebook page and click “like.” Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the four winners via Facebook when the giveaway is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 19th. Good luck!~~

Congratulations to Ashley Elizabeth Gehm, Bryan Elfant, Amy Orvin and Lynette Barbieri!

10 Most Outrageous Celebrity Valentine’s Day Gifts





By Michelle Danzig

With the most romantic day just around the corner, you may find yourself pressured to find the perfect gift to surprise your sweetie. In today's economy, it's hard not to find yourself in the cards, candy and flowers section of the department store, looming over the inevitable three-hour wait for dinner reservations this Valentine's Day. But what would your holiday be like with some extra, disposable income? Look no further than these 10 celebrities who emptied their pockets and went over-the-top with these outrageous Valentine's Day gifts for their significant others:

1. Courteney Cox: Before their recent split, Cox once purchased her then-husband, **David Arquette**, an antique Carousel horse. The estimated cost of an antique can range anywhere from \$3,500 to \$45,000.

2. Jay Z: With an estimated cost of \$24,000, the rapper and record producer bought his now-wife, **Beyonce** a Platinum covered mobile phone. I wonder if she picked that up while she was dancing in the club with Lady Gaga?

3. George Clooney: Even though it seemed like a fling, in 2008 Clooney splurged \$40,000 for girlfriend **Sarah Larson** on a hotel suite at the Hugh Hefner Sky Village in Las Vegas's

Playboy Tower at the Palms Casino Resort. Not only that, but the two had dinner at the exclusive Nove restaurant while watching the Cirque Du Soleil tribute show to the Beatles at the Mirage Hotel and Casino.

Related: [Extravagant Celebrity Gifts Within Reach of Your Budget.](#)

4. Angelina Jolie: If you were anticipating another adoption, think again. Jolie bought hubby **Brad Pitt** a 200-year-old olive tree for £12,000—a little over \$19,000—for Valentine's Day last year. The olive tree was planted at the couple's chateau in France and is said to be a symbol of peace and longevity.

5. David Beckham: The sexy soccer star bought wife **Victoria Beckham** an \$8 million Bvlgari necklace and flew chefs in from her favorite restaurant in London to Spain to prepare dinner.

6. Justin Bieber: Although sadly the teen power couple is no longer involved, the 18-year-old pop star spent \$2000 on singer and Disney Channel star, **Selena Gomez** by buying out an entire florist of his roses, tulips and daisies. Talk about being Justin's girlfriend...

Related: [Valentine's Day Advice: How Successful Women Can Ditch Dating Duds](#)

7. Jerry O'Connell: The *Stand By Me* star once planted over 800 grapevines in the home he shares with fellow actress and [wife](#), **Rebecca Romijn**. The estimated cost of this fruitful investment is \$52,000.

8. Howard Stern: The over-the-top radio personality designed and gave his now-wife, **Beth Ostrosky** a 5.2 carat emerald-cut engagement ring valued at over \$250,000 on Valentine's Day in 2007.

9. Katy Perry: Before filing for divorce in 2012, the singer purchased hubby **Russell Brand** a lilac-colored Bentley

Brooklands. Interested in buying this for your sweetie? The base price for a 2009 model is nearly \$341,000.

10. Mike Tyson: Known for some previously extravagant gifts, the former undisputed heavyweight champion purchased a \$2 million bathtub for ex-wife **Robin Givens**.

Get a crazy gift for Valentine's Day? Share your story below!

Giveaway: Pure Romance For This Valentine's Day



This post is sponsored by Pure Romance.

By Whitney Baker

If you're trying to plan the perfect Valentine's Day date for

you and your man, you may be feeling a bit stressed as the holiday quickly approaches. Trying to keep the night low-key but romantic and special, you've decided to cook a gourmet meal – paired with a nice bottle of wine, of course – before the two of you enjoy a candle-lit dinner and some alone time at home. Perhaps you want to give your partner a sensual massage as a calorie-free dessert. Wanting to look your best, you've also bought a new dress and some sexy heels. But what else can you do to let your love know how much you care?

For some much-needed help with the evening's plans, look no further than [Pure Romance](#) and its premiere line of relationship and intimacy products. The company's goal is to empower, educate and entertain women as they strengthen their relationships and marriages. Not only can you purchase these fabulous items for yourself, but you can also host a girls' night to introduce your friends to these products.

One lucky CupidsPulse.com reader will win a Pure Romance gift basket filled with the following goodies (totaling \$107 in value), sure to reignite the spark in your relationship – or perhaps even light a new one! – just in time for Valentine's Day.

- **Burning Desire:** To set the mood, light this soy massage oil candle and enjoy its sweet fragrance. Once it melts, the candle doubles as a warm, rich body balm that lasts up to 20 massages.
- **Pulsa Bath Ball:** This sponge, which requires two AA batteries, can be used to lather up in the shower or bath and doubles as a personal massager.
- **Body Dew:** A spritz of this moisturizer will leave your skin feeling soft and sexy.
- **Serenity:** This aromatherapy massage lotion will help you feel relaxed and confident, ensuring you a blissful night of romance.
- **Body Bling Brush:** Kissable Body Bling makes your skin

appear to be a rich, shimmering gold and can be worn throughout the day and night.

- **Lip Locked:** Two tubes of Naughty and Nice flavored SPF 15 lip balm will help your kisses be better than ever before.

~~GIVEAWAY ALERT: To enter for a chance to win a gift basket from Pure Romance, go to our Facebook page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the winners via our Facebook page when the giveaway is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, February 18. Good luck!~~

Congratulations to Sarah Northcutt! We hope you enjoy your prize package!

Top 5 Don'ts of a First Valentine's Date





By Susan Trombetti

As Valentine's Day approaches, the nerves are building up for many young couples. Maybe you've been dating for months, maybe you've been on a few dates or maybe you're friends, but want to take that next step in your relationship. Whatever situation you're in, don't let the expectations surrounding this day get to you. If you're spending the first Valentine's Day with your new honey, follow these tips:

1. Don't make your first date on Valentine's day: I don't like this idea. Valentine's Day isn't a day to get to know someone. This date also leads to easy let downs. There will be too high of expectations for one person or both, which can be awkward if it's the first time you go out on a date.

Related: [How to Make Your Lady Feel Special This Valentine's Day](#)

2. Don't leave your wallet or purse behind: You want to be romantic and chivalrous on the most romantic day of the year, so at least offer to pay even if he/she doesn't let you.

3. Don't be on your cell phone or other device: This is pretty much a no-no on any date, but especially don't screw it up on this night by being preoccupied by your phone. You need to let

you're date know that they're the most important thing at that moment in time, which means not responding to texts, emails or calls you may get.

Related: [Surviving Valentine's Day](#)

4. Don't talk about your ex: Leave this conversation at the door unless you want your new partner to run. If you're on a date and all you can talk about is your ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, than your date is obviously going to think you're not over that person, which is probably true if you're too focused on them anyway. That person is your ex for a reason, realize that and try not blow this date because of the person in your past.

5. Don't drink too much: We all know that too much alcohol can lead to embarrassing and regretful behaviors, so forget that third glass of wine and keep it classy on this night. This is especially true for those spending their first Valentine's Day together, because new partners can be less forgiving of some of your actions caused by drinking.

Valentine's Day shouldn't be a make or break in your relationship. Yes, as a couple you should celebrate it, but don't let it stress you out too much. Take it for what it is. Do something to show your partner that you love them and keep it light hearted and fun at the same time.

Susan Trombetti is an expert matchmaker and member of the Professional Matchmakers Association. She has helped many discerning singles discover long-term relationships and partnerships that are both rewarding and fulfilling through her business, Exclusive Matchmaking. She's also been featured in several top dating/relationship magazines and websites including Cosmopolitan and iVillage.

5 Tips for Single Moms to Survive Valentine's Day



By Kerri Zane

As a single mom, there are holidays we love like Halloween and 4th of July. Then there are holidays that we don't love so much, like Valentine's Day. The bountiful red hearts, bundles of red roses, inane jewelry commercials and mushy holiday cards are consistent reminders of our painfully evident single status. But we can be above it all. As the Single Mom Advisor, I have five surefire tips, to handle our hearts and mind with tender loving care. We can all get through this Hallmark Holiday with our healthy egos in tact.

1. Grieve with Gusto

In the movie *Moonlighting*, Cher's character said, "Snap out of it." It is the old school way of recovering from life's traumas. The reality is we all need time to grieve. So if this Valentine's season finds you fresh out of a relationship, give yourself space to mourn your loss. Turn up the tune that was "your" song or play something that make you want to cry. When I was just separated I loved getting in my car and turning up my Evanescence CD. I'd drive and cry and think and sing along with Amy Lee's sultry voice until I felt better.

Related: [Surviving Valentine's Day](#)

Appreciate the You in You

As a woman, it's crucial to your well being to appreciate and love yourself. After all, if you don't respect yourself how can you expect that of anyone else? You have to know what you are bringing to the party. I suggest you write yourself a love note including all the things you appreciate most about you.

Be Weary of Red

In the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* researchers found that men interpreted red as a signal that a woman was more open to sexual advances. They went on to say; "It's well known that males tend to inflate a woman's sexual appeal if they believe she'll be more open to a pickup line." And it didn't matter if it was a low cut sexy dress or a simple t-shirt. So if you're looking to lay low this Valentine's Day, then avoid the color red. If you want a little mindless hmm hmm, primp your pretty pout with rouge.

Related: [7 Behaviors That Are Keeping You Single](#)

Fun With Friends

You know the saying, "Men will come and go, but girlfriends are forever"? Have a Valentines Vision Board Party. Invite your BFF's over, open a bottle of champagne, pull out the

scissors, poster board, glue and old magazines and spend the evening creating “new romance” vision boards.

Engaged With Your Young Ones

You may find a new guy to share your life with down the line, but he will never take precedence over your children. So go ahead and create a new Valentine’s tradition celebrating the love you share with those divine little creatures you cherish most.

Kerri Zane is an Emmy award winning, twenty-year veteran television executive producer, healthy living expert, single mom advisor, speaker and author of “It Takes All 5: A Single Mom’s Guide to Finding the REAL One,” published by Morgan James, (November 2012). She has an M.A. in Spiritual Psychology from USM and a B.A. from UCLA. She is a member of NATAS, the Directors Guild of America, an ACE Certified Personal Trainer and Weight Management Consultant. For more advice, visit <http://kerrizane.com/>.

How to Make Your Lady Feel Special This Valentine’s Day





By John Powers

There is a very serious holiday fast-approaching, and you need to be prepared. This holiday does not require you to fast, dress in green or be good all year. It's Valentine's Day, the one day each year designed to help people celebrate love. Even those of us who say we are not celebrating secretly want to be kissed and spoiled. Here are a few ways to make you lady feel special this year:

1. Ditch the Ordinary

Try something other than chocolate and flowers. Think of something your sweetie really likes and surprise her. Get that rare collectible figurine she pointed out a few months ago. Leave it on her dresser. Give her a silver necklace. Put it in an empty chocolate box and wait for her to open it. The look on her face will be priceless.

Related Link: [Guys Edition: How to Behave Like a Gentleman](#)

2. Get Romantic

Plan a special date that doesn't focus on going out to the bar. This is Valentine's Day, not Santa Con. You can still partake in intoxicating refreshments, but make reservations at a classy restaurant. Make your partner feel like she's the

only girl in the world. Nothing says love better than a candlelit dinner and some sweet somethings.

3. Look the Part

Dress up for this special day. Take off the Pearl Jam T-shirt and put on a sweater vest. Your lady will appreciate the effort and feel proud to be out with you. The worst thing you could do is show your significant other a half-hearted Valentine's Day. Keep in mind she's going to tell her friends and family all about it. Give her something to brag about and take plenty of pictures.

4. Make Every Day V-Day

This magical holiday comes once a year, but it's important to make your woman feel special every day you spend together. My girlfriend likes hand sanitizer but using it leaves her hands dry and chapped. I decided to grab her some scented sanitizing lotions. The thoughtfulness of my random act of consideration made her exclaim, "You make every day feel like Valentine's Day!"

Related Link: [5 Things Women Wish Men Knew](#)

It may not mean a lot to us men. Everyone likes chocolate, but we don't much care for flowers. Think of what it means to your lady. It should feel good to make her feel special. Trust me that you will be handsomely rewarded. Go the extra mile this year and make it one she'll remember for years to come.

John Powers is a dating and relationship adviser who performs standup comedy and writes the male perspective for Beauty and the Beast, a weekly comedic dating and relationships advice blog. He recently released a music video for his latest single – a parody of Hey There Delilah.

Giveaway: Spend Valentine's Day in a Champagne Bubble Battle



This post is sponsored by Wine Bottles.

By [Whitney Baker](#)

There isn't much time left before Valentine's Day, and if you're anything like the staff here at CupidsPulse.com, we are always looking for unique ideas to celebrate the holiday. Recently, we stumbled upon a very cool way to have a memorable night with your significant other or best girlfriends. It's called [Wine Battles](#), and we have a feeling it's going to be a hit once more people hear about it.

Wine Battles is a tournament-style wine-tasting competition that provides you with the chance to taste amazing wines in the comfort of your own home while enjoying a great bonding experience. Every Battle is designed for a specific period of time, either three or seven weeks, and focuses on a specific varietal or theme. Each week during your Battle, you will receive two naturally contrasting wines as well as educational materials to help you improve upon your wine tasting skills and understand your individual palate. The wines are voted on each week until a winner is declared based on the popular vote of the tournament's battlers. This experience allows you to enjoy wines outside of your comfort zone and improve your wine-tasting skills. To make the battles even more fun, you can post your scores and notes online and also share on Facebook and Twitter. By the end of the tournament, you're sure to be a more knowledgeable wine enthusiast.

Just in time for the most romantic day of the year, Wine Battles is hosting what they call a [Champagne Bubble Battle](#), a special, one-night event featuring Laurent Perrier Brut L-P and Alfred Gratien Brut Classique. You and your lucky partner can sip the finest wines from the Champagne region of France as you enjoy spending time together. The Bubble Battle is packaged in a handcrafted, wooden wine box and includes an assortment of premium chocolates as well as your choice of Valentine's Day card. It also contains the Wine Battles Getting Started Guide and professional tasting notes for each of the competing vintages.

If the Bubble Battle sounds like just what you had in mind for February 14th, don't miss our giveaway! One CupidsPulse.com reader will win a Champagne Bubble Battle to enjoy on with their sweetheart! Now, this is a unique idea we really like!

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT: To enter for a chance to win a Champagne Bubble Battle, go to our [Facebook](#) page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the winner via**~~

[Facebook](#) when the contest is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 5th. Good luck!

Congratulations to Bari Rubin for winning a Champagne Bubble Battle!

Valentine's Day Advice: 5 Love Languages Defined



By Top Dating Sites

Do you remember that special moment? You know, the time you put down the artificial midge-fly you were tying so that you could spend time with your husband, and you rubbed the back of his neck while telling him how special he was? Meanwhile, he

was giving you the pair of mittens he knitted for you, after he heard you say your arthritis was kicking up. Well, congratulations, because you two were speaking *all five* languages of love at once.

This harmonious convergence of events speaks to all the communication tools that noted relationship expert and author, Dr. Gary Chapman, extols in his series, *The 5 Love Languages*.

Dr. Chapman, also a Baptist minister, has achieved world-renown as a Biblical scholar in the field of personal relationships. His best-selling series concentrates on ways that people can convey their true feelings to others in ways that are easily accessible to all parties. In the condensed form above were elements of what Dr. Chapman teaches. A few notes about these “languages” appear below. These techniques apply not only to spouses, but to all interpersonal relationships:

1. Words of Affirmation – Find something nice to say to somebody. It really isn’t difficult; it just takes a little bit of effort. Show that you notice something positive about another, whether it’s an endearment, or “seeing” a new hair-do or a hobby achievement. Some people call it giving “strokes” because it is a verbal “petting”. To understand it better, turn the tables and imagine the feeling you get when somebody sincerely says something nice to you. That’s what we’re talking about.

Related: [Communicate This – Signs that Kim and Kris Were Doomed](#)

2. Quality Time – Quality time *doesn’t* mean giving anything up. It *does* mean creating time together. What you do or don’t do isn’t important. What *is* important is that you are together.

3. Gifts – It isn’t the size of a package or the gleam of a gemstone that matters in gift-giving and gift-receiving. The

important thing is that it lets people express positive emotion in a tangible way. Those who prefer to communicate in the 'gift' love language, put a lot of thought into the gifts they give.

Related: [10 Holiday Gift Ideas for that Special Someone](#)

4. Acts of Service – When you oiled the hinges on the screen-door that was driving your mate crazy you were “speaking” a language of love. When you finally notice that you haven’t tripped over a pair of shoes on the stairway in quite some time, it’s because someone else was “speaking” to you in a language of love.

5. Physical Touch – Unless you are both professional alligator-wrestlers, physical touch probably doesn’t need to be more than an unexpected touch or small caress to speak loudly in one of the least-developed “languages” of love.

One of the aspects of Dr. Chapman’s teachings that has been most helpful for couples is learning how to identify one another’s preferred love language. We often try to show love to others in ways that we appreciate, instead of in their own ‘love language’ and then are baffled by their lack of appreciation. When one person’s primary love language is ‘gifts’ and the other’s is ‘words of affirmation’, they are each speaking a foreign ‘love language’ to their partner.

Understanding this can be very helpful in any relationship, but especially in the ongoing relationship of marriage.

Dr. Chapman isn’t exploring deep mysteries. His observations and teachings involve everyday people, living everyday lives. What people do within that context is what ultimately decides how many “languages” you are fluent in.

Valentine's Day Advice: 10 Tips for a Romantic (and Green) Marriage Proposal



By Kate Harrison

Valentine's Day is one of the most popular days of the year to propose. As this special day approaches, men across the country are struggling to find the best way to pop the question. Take a load off boys, because Green Bride Guide eco-wedding expert Kate Harrison has some engaging ideas to inspire your inner romantic while reducing your impact on the earth.

"For a great proposal, the key is to be both thoughtful and creative," says Harrison. "Like your wedding day, your proposal should be all about her, so put her first in every way and you can't go wrong."

1. Location: No one likes to say they got engaged next to the laundry machine. Pick a location or restaurant that she loves or take her to your favorite green spot. Whether a mountaintop or an organic restaurant, your soon-to-be fiancée will appreciate a carefully selected location.

Related: [Date Idea: Star Light, Star Bright](#)

2. Look the part: Shower with your organic bath products, wear an outfit you know she loves, and put on a non-toxic deodorant or cologne. (Check the Environmental Working Groups Skindeep database to see how yours ranks today.)

Related: [5 Ways to Get Him to Propose By Labor Day](#)

3. Make it a party: Surround her with the people she loves the most for an engagement with an audience. Keep some chilled organic sparkling wine on hand to pass around after you pop the question.

4. Daily gifts: Create a count-down to Valentine's Day with little gifts each day like fair trade chocolates, heart-inspired socks or underwear, movie tickets, and love notes.

5. Summon a crowd: Does she love an audience? Purchase tickets to a concert or theatrical presentation, and propose in front of a crowd.

6. Customize a puzzle: Once it's put together, it reads, "Will you marry me?"

7. Go vintage: Buy a Lite Brite board on eBay and write the words "Marry Me" in pretty colors.

8. Flowers: Shower her with organic, fair trade or locally grown flowers. You can buy freeze dried petals online and sprinkle them in the tub, on the bed, or even in the car. Use them to spell out your proposal, or tie a note to a bouquet.

9. Candles: Light up the bedroom with soy, palm or beeswax

candles.

10. Get nerdy: Create your own original poem, write your own song, or make a YouTube video to ask for her hand in marriage.

Kate wrote [The Green Bride Guide](#) (Sourcebooks, 2008), after planning her own green wedding in 2007, and founded www.greenbrideguide.com in 2009. In 2010, she created the country's first green wedding professional certification class – a four week, online course – with the Wedding Planning Institute to help wedding planners learn about eco-friendly alternatives.

Valentine's Day Advice: Five Unconventional Date Night Ideas





By A Bullseye View

The old dinner and a movie routine can get old fast. This Valentine's Day, it's time to spice things up. Whether you want to go out or stay in, these non-traditional activities are sure-fire fun:

Stay in and cook fresh pasta

There's something about tackling a project like fresh pasta that's really fun. It's special, delicious and only requires two ingredients (plus you, of course!). To start, you'll need all-purpose flour and eggs. If you don't have a pasta maker, you can roll dough out with a regular rolling pin and cut it with a knife. With a little time and effort, you'll have a fine-dining experience that you made from scratch, together.

Get glam and smile

In the age of digital cameras, unflattering Facebook shots and constant TwitPics, it can be hard to find a decent photo with your significant other. So, why not get all gussied up and pose like a pro? Hire a professional shutterbug or just ask a willing friend.

Related: [Valentine's Day Advice – Indulge in Simple Pleasures](#)

Learn something together

Take a class – a cooking class, language class, kickboxing class, massage class – it doesn't matter! As long as it's fun and a break from your daily routine, you'll both learn something new and have fun while doing it. Participating in the experience together is what's important.

Related: [Dating Advice: Find Out If Men Really Want the 'Cool Girl'](#)

Give a personalized gift

Flowers and sweets – although delicious – aren't your only gift options. Give your beau a special something that will keep you in their minds (and hands) all day long – a custom photo phone case. CaseMate and Target give you the creative reigns on shatterproof, scratch resistant cases for iPhones, iPod Touch, BlackBerry and Samsung. Upload a cute snapshot of the two of you and start designing cases together. Best part? Their phone will stand out from the crowd *and* everyone will know they're taken!

Volunteer

What's the total opposite of an expensive night on the town? Spending a few hours, or even a full day, volunteering at a local charity or organization. Get those good vibes pumping by volunteering as a couple. You'll feel great about your partner *and* you can spread some of your love to others.