

Valentine's Day Advice: Romantic Home-Dates for Busy Parents



By Rebecca Garland

Forced to stay home for Valentine's Day with the hubby? You're not alone, as many celebrity families prefer to stay close rather than head out on romantic dates while dealing with the hassles of a babysitter or, in the celebrity case, overtime pay for the nanny.

Can you imagine Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie turning up for a special with the paparazi underfoot looking for clues about the latest celebrity plastic surgery? No – celebrity parents, especially in big families like the Jolie-Pitts, are looking

for a bit more privacy when it comes to celebrating Valentine's Day. And you can enjoy romance at home, too. Here's how:

Cook Together

Often parents focus on getting food on the table rather than the simple joys that baking can bring. Feed the children early, and pack them off to bed. Then, come back to the kitchen for an evening with entrees and wine just for the grown-ups. Cooking together can be intimate by preparing the meal together, setting the table for two and feeding each other bites in exactly the same way you would if you were paying \$100 per plate.

Related: [Celebrity Couples With The Biggest Age Differences](#)

Dinner and a Movie

If the idea of cleaning the kitchen twice is overwhelming, take the easy road and send out for take-out. While one of you puts the kids to bed, the other drives to the local steakhouse or seafood restaurant for some delicious food to go. Those waiting for a table might realize you have the right idea as you hurry home with your fine dining. Set the table in the living room, and enjoy the meal by candle light.

Then, with the leftovers put away, pop in your favorite romantic comedy and put your home theater to good use.

Related: [5 Ways to Reignite the Spark In Your Relationship](#)

Casual Romance

Valentine's Day deserves a bit of special treatment, but if setting tables and driving out for food doesn't put you in the mind for romance, why not keep it casual? Busy parents know that the most romantic thing you can do is simply spend time together without any obligations or interferences. Order a pizza with your favorite toppings – you don't need to make

concessions for the kids this time – and kick back to watch an uninterrupted marathon of all of those shows the two of you have recorded on the DVR.

Picture the two of you on the couch, your feet in his lap while both of you hold a container of delivered Chinese food or pizza for dinner. If you think the evening needs a bit more of a kick, throw your normal sweatpants over some silky lingerie, and use those commercial breaks wisely...

Rebecca Garland is a professional freelance writer working hard to populate the internet with meaningful, interesting content. With advanced degrees in information science and business, Rebecca enjoys a variety of topics including relationships and seduction. Learn more about Rebecca on her professional website, www.internetauthor.net.

Valentine's Day Advice: Nine Gift Ideas for the Frugalista





By Vicky Oliver

According to Wikipedia, Valentine's Day didn't become associated with romantic love until the High Middle Ages when the tradition of courtly love flourished. Ever since, the day has been fraught with symbolism tinged with traces of anxiety.

We all want our gifts to communicate the appropriate amount of love, but we're sometimes unsure how to accomplish that. Questions abound. Should you buy him a sexy card or tickets to a basketball game? Should you present her with costly French perfume, and if so, what brand? What, if anything, will he "read into" that scented soap-on-a-rope? Will she take those teardrop earrings to mean more than you intend—or quite a bit less? And then, on the other end of the love spectrum, what if you simply can't afford to shower your loved one with the gifts that he or she deserves?

If you're watching your money (and these days, who isn't?), the good news is that we live in an era when the grand gesture can be more meaningful than a present costing hundreds of dollars. And with a little forethought, yours will convey

just the right amount of love. Here are nine gift ideas for the frugalista with a heart of gold, but a wallet running on empty:

Related: [4 Great Valentine's Day Gift Ideas for Her](#)

1. Invent a signature drink for your sweetheart. Is he of Russian descent? Perhaps the drink should contain Russian vodka in his honor. Does she hail from Florida? Maybe the drink should be made with fresh-squeezed oranges instead. Are you dating a redhead? Consider adding ginger as one of the prominent drink flavors. For added fun and hijinks, print up the recipe on cardstock so that your loved one can order the libation with ease at restaurants and bars. Be sure to put some personality into that recipe card.

Related: [What Does Your Date's Drink Say About Him?](#)

2. Get inventive with the I.O.U.s. These ingenious notes can save you a small fortune ... or even a large one. Instead of running around trying to find the perfect present for your paramour, take half of an afternoon to design a pretty I.O.U. certificate on your computer for "one free home-cooked meal." Then fill in his name, print out the document, wrap it with a ribbon (that came straight from another gift), and you're done. Cupid will attest, the quickest way to a man's heart is (still) through his stomach.

3. Name a star. It's a symbolic gesture that has little to do with science, but much to do with love and affection. Plus, it can add a real bright spot to your relationship. Call a star after a girlfriend, boyfriend, or even "just a friend" for under \$15. Every time that special person in your life stares up at the heavens, he or she will be sure to think of you fondly.

4. Shop your closet. "Love consists of desiring to give what is our own to another and feeling his delight as our own," Emanuel Swedenborg wrote. Passing on something that was yours

to someone you cherish is not merely about the value of the item itself. Hopefully, the gesture will strike an emotion, and you'll have a chance to see your own joy reflected back in the recipient's face. Please note: Never relinquish something that you can't live without should the relationship combust.

5. The gift that shows what you *would* give if money were no object. Five years into your relationship is your dream of spending "April in Paris" together *still* just a dream? Show her that you haven't forgotten with a destination charm. A company called latitude longitude^{â„†} charms and jewelry will print out the exact coordinates of your fantasy location on a sterling silver stamped tag. You'll get all the credit for taking her there—at a fraction of the cost.

6. Say it with music. When love is in the air, why not pretend that you're an on-air personality and burn a CD of the tunes that remind you of your sweetheart? If you have been dating for over a year, the songs might harken back to the night you met. Or the CD might include the melody that played when you first kissed. Sweet dreams are made of this.

7. Something, anything, in her or his color. Some women look dashing in pink. Some guys look fetching in emerald green. When you know your lover's favorite color and then buy a present in the precise shade, it shows an extra degree of thought. These gifts needn't be costly. Scarves, hats, and gloves in every color of the rainbow can be purchased for under \$10 at your local street vendors. Even something as frivolous as a pink pen can bring a smile to the right face—hers.

8. A message in a bottle. Do you feel like Shakespeare in love, but just need a little help writing the poetry? For about \$100 less than a bottle of perfume you can give your love interest something permanent, creative, and emotionally stirring. An online company called Timeless Message will help you select a limited edition antique bottle and even craft a

message for you if need be. What if you actually *are* the next Shakespeare or the second coming of Hallmark? Have no fear! It's easy to write your own sentiment (and not be dependent on the sentimentality of others).

9. Something a tiny bit Bohemian. I once ate chocolate spaghetti. It wasn't the finest meal I had ever sampled, but it was so over-the-top that I savored it anyway. (If you're giving chocolate pasta as a gift, be sure to find a recipe that you actually *want* to try. There are several online.)

If you have just started dating, Valentine's Day is a built-in opportunity to move your relationship forward by mutually exploring a new level of intimacy. On the other hand, if you have been dating or married for a while, Valentine's Day presents the perfect chance to rekindle the romance and remember why you fell in love in the first place. No matter what you spend on your significant other this Valentine's Day, don't forget to say, "I love you."

Vicky Oliver is the award-winning author of The Millionaire's Handbook: How to Look and Act Like a Millionaire, Even If You're Not (Skyhorse Publishing, November 2011) plus four books on career development, including the bestselling 301 Smart Answers to Tough Interview Questions (Sourcebooks, 2005) and 301 Smart Answers to Tough Business Etiquette Questions (Skyhorse Publishing, 2010). She lives in New York City, where she helps people turn around their careers and their lives.

Valentine's Day Advice:

Follow Famous New Yorkers



By Jeryl Brunner

Someone once told me that when it comes to dating, especially early on, it's important to place you and your date into the epicenter of something fun and amusing. So, in case you aren't clicking or the conversation is generally going south, the environment around you can pick up the slack, offering instant entertainment.

So this Valentine's Day, instead of going for the quiet table at the dimly lit restaurant, opt for something a bit more lively that will spark conversation. Honestly, I've been told that the circus makes a nice date option, and is good for people watching and observation. ("Look at that clown juggle 14 plates! Get a load of that tightrope walker!") But since the circus isn't in town, I turned to famous New Yorkers and

their favorite romantic New York City spots for advice:

1. Let me sell you a bridge

For the ultimate people watching and architecture viewing, do what makes John Oliver and Ana Gastayer go breathless: Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge. “Something as simple as walking across the Brooklyn Bridge can be a heart-stopping experience,” explains Gasyeyer. “As a New Yorker there are a few moments that you can repeat over and over again that echo the original experience of coming here if you weren’t born here.”

Related: [Take a Walk on the Wild Side of the Caribbean](#)

2. Be a karaoke king (or queen)

Pals Jason Sudeikis and Will Forte say there’s nothing like bonding over karaoke in a private room. The pair and their friends will hit Sing Sing or Boho Karaoke and belt REO Speedwagon standards like “I Can’t Fight This Feeling,” TV theme songs (think *Family Ties* and *Good Times*) or tunes from Shrek. As Sudelkis notes, “You sing six or seven songs in an hour and can take chances. You can take risks.”

Related: [Justin Bieber Serenades Selena Gomez During AMA Rehearsal](#)

3. Pizza, much hotter than you think

How about a road trip for pizza and more compelling people watching? Kevin Spacey prefers Joe’s, while Daniel Boulud says Di Fara rules. Owner Dom DeMarco, says Boulud “makes each pie one by one. People line up out the door to get in. It’s the old-fashioned Brooklyn pizza—thick, bready dough, good tomato sauce ... He adds more cheese after it’s cooked and lets it melt over the hot pizza, rather than cook the cheese too much.”

4. Never underestimate the zoo, sing-alongs and gardens

For interesting people (and animal) watching, head over to Alex Rodriguez's go-to spot, the Central Park Zoo. Then, mosey on over to Meredith Vieira's beloved Strawberry Fields and sing along with the musicians crooning Beatles tunes.

Combine that with a trip to the Conservatory Gardens, Bette Midler's favorite locale. The six-acre tucked away refuge is filled with bronze sculptures and fountains.

5. Drink in that view

Thirsty? Follow Gayle King's lead and have a drink at the 35th floor Lobby Lounge at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Nothing enhances date buzz like a killer view with the twinkling lights of Manhattan as your backdrop.

So go ahead, step out of the same old heart-shaped box this Valentine's Day. You may just discover some seriously cool shared treasures.

Jeryl Brunner is the author of My City, My New York: Famous New Yorkers Share Their Favorite Places, www.mycitymynewyork.com. She has also contributed to O, the Oprah magazine, Parade, National Geographic Traveler, Delta Sky, Travel + Leisure, Huffington Post and many other publications. Jeryl lives in New York City, adores walking through Central Park and has downloaded an embarrassing number of show tunes on her iPod.

Valentine's Day Duos: 5

Hollywood Relationships That Spiraled Out Of Control



By Katanya Royster

Relationships can be hard work, and they require a lot of effort to be put in from both ends. When you both commit, it makes it all worthwhile- in most cases. While many relationships start off on a high note and continue on the path of blissfulness, others plummet to a place of irreconcilable differences, physical altercations and repeated infidelity. They end up heading straight to Splittsville. In fact, all you have to do is ask the following couples:

1. Chris Brown and Rihanna: Typically, the phrase “first love” invokes visions of butterflies, sunsets and all things

untainted. But, in 2009, we saw an ugly side of first love. Singer, Chris Brown, was accused of assaulting his popstar girlfriend, Robyn “Rihanna” Fenty. At the time of the assault, Brown was 19 and Rihanna was 20. After pictures of Rihanna’s badly beaten face surfaced, fans immediately took sides. Some were ready to dismiss Brown’s actions as a forgivable misstep, while others were relentless in their criticism of him. Either way, it was the worst possible ending to a seemingly beautiful love story. Or was it? Recent tweets make it seem as if reconciliation may be on the horizon.

Related: [5 Celebrity Couples We Want to See Reunite](#)

2. Russell Brand and Katy Perry: A shocked public let out a collective gasp when Russell Brand filed for divorce from his wife of 14 months. Failed Hollywood marriages are no surprise, but for some reason, we thought these two would be different. So what if Brand is a recovering sex addict and Perry is the daughter of evangelical ministers? We still thought this couple had a fighting chance. Brand’s boredom with the couple’s sex life and his inability to be alone, may have contributed to the couple’s marital problems, reported *US Weekly*.

3. Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries. Many thought Kim and Kris’ lavish wedding was a publicity stunt. So, when Kim filed for divorce after only 72 days of marriage, no one was shocked – except maybe Kris. The NBA star claimed he was surprised by Kim’s actions and that he wanted to make the couple’s marriage work. After the split went viral, Kim was embarrassed and, in a rare move, retreated from the public eye while her ex-hubby was booed in NYC during a basketball game. Thus, if the marriage was a publicity stunt, it may have been the worst one in history.

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

4. Kobe and Vanessa Bryant: In 2003, Kobe was accused of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old hotel employee. Kobe proclaimed his innocence, but admitted to infidelity and famously apologized to his wife, Vanessa, with a \$4 million ring and a custom-made Lamborghini. It seems that Kobe's relationship patchwork was a bit like someone putting a Band-Aid on broken leg – a nice gesture, but it didn't actually fix the problem- a cheating husband. In 2011, after 10 years of marriage, Vanessa finally filed for divorce citing "irreconcilable differences,". Either way, a woman scorned, plus a husband worth \$150 million dollars, minus a prenup, equals trouble. With that kind of money up for grabs, this downward spiral may have only just begun.

5. Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren. Tiger Woods' fame had just as much to do with his clean cut image as it did with his amazing golf game. However, a one-car accident near Woods' and Nordegren's Florida home changed his reputation forever. A parade of women subsequently emerged and admitted to having affairs with the golf pro. In an attempt to save his marriage, the father of two spent six weeks in a rehabilitation program for sex addiction. Nonetheless, Nordegren filed for divorce granted on the basis that the couple's marriage was "irretrievably broken." Nordegren was awarded an undisclosed settlement amount thought to be in the neighborhood of \$100 million dollars.

How did you know when you or a friend's relationship was over? Share your stories below.

4 Ways to Exorcise Your “Ex” This Valentine’s Day



By Marianne Beach, GalTime.com

It's a new year but you're still stuck on that old guy. And now the most romantic holiday of the year is fast approaching. Wouldn't Valentine's Day be the perfect time to exorcise that ex and move on for good?

Kelly McGonigal, psychologist at Stanford University and author of the new book *The Willpower Instinct: How Self Control Works, Why It Matters, and What You Can Do To Get More of It*, thinks so. "Valentine's Day is all about declaring who you care about most," she declares. "And if you've thrown away enough time on a go-nowhere relationship, the person at the

top of your V-Day list should be *you*.”

Sounds good, right? But maybe easier said than done. After all, an “ex” habit can be hard to break.

“Anything that reminds you for your ex can bring back a flood of feelings,” says McGonigal. “You may look back with ‘euphoric recall,’ remembering only the highs and none of the lows. Even if the relationship was a disaster, you may not want to believe that you wasted your time and heart on a jerk.”

Related: [Celebrity Couples Who Called It Quits in Summer 2015](#)

So what does it take to break the “ex” habit once and for all? McGonigal says you’ll need a good dose of self-control with a dash of self-compassion. And she has four great tips, based on the latest science of willpower to help you move on.

4 Ways to Exorcise Your “Ex” this Valentine’s Day

1. Find a Role Model.

Science shows that we can catch willpower from people we admire, and strengthen our resolve just by bringing them to mind. Look to your own life, pop culture, or the news for a “ditch-the-ex” role model. Who’s your favorite example of a strong woman who kicked a man to the curb, and is doing just fine on their own (or on the rebound!)? Think of yourself as following in her footsteps, and bring her to mind when you’re tempted to stalk your ex on Facebook.

2. “I Won’t” Is Easier When You Have a New “I Want.”

The best way to make an old habit less tempting is to find a new addiction. The bad news is you can’t order a new crush from Zappos. So how do you replace the longing for an ex without jumping into a new relationship? Find a new goal – like running a race for charity or writing your own romance novel – or return to an old passion you’ve left behind, like

cooking, bellydancing, or blogging. When that “something’s missing” feeling comes up, get busy on your goal instead of fantasizing about getting back with your ex.

Related: [Relationship Expert Reveals What to Do Before You Begin Online Dating](#)

3. Take Care of Yourself.

Stress is the #1 trigger for any addiction, including old flames. Feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, or anxious triggers a physiological need to connect, and you crave what psychologists call “contact comfort.” Stress also makes your brain focus on potential reward, and ignore potential risk. So you’re likely to imagine the warm embrace of a romantic reunion, and forget the shame or regret you felt after the last hook-up. Pre-empt stress-induced longing by treating yourself to some serious self-care. Schedule a girls’ night, pull out that yoga DVD, get a manicure and massage, or whatever calms your nerves and lift your spirits.

4. Beware the White Bear.

There’s one guaranteed way to make sure you *never* forget your ex: try to push him out of your mind completely. Psychologists call this the “White Bear Effect.” If you try not to think about a white bear, one will pop into your mind. This is true for all kinds of temptations. Dieters who try not to think about chocolate become obsessed with it, and eat more of it. Smokers who try not to think about cigarettes only end up smoking more. One study even found that if you try not to think about an old flame, you’re more likely to dream about him! So when an ex comes to mind, don’t panic, and certainly don’t take it as some kind of sign! Remind yourself why he’s an ex, then put your attention back on someone you really care about – *you*.

Valentine's Day Outfit Ideas: Sophisticated



By Sarah Thaman

Excited about an upcoming Valentine's Day date? Even if you're going out with your husband or long time bf, it's a great excuse to shake things up and go out for a night on the town. Lost on what to wear? Never fear! I'm here with different looks that are sure to please you and your man. Here's the final of the three looks:

This Valentine's Day look is great if you're meeting up with your date after a long work day. Switch out your shoes for a

flash of metallic and a big cocktail ring to jazz it up. Keep your makeup minimal and freshen it up with a highlighter to give your face a subtle glow. When swiped down the bridge of the nose, the Cupid's bow, and near the temples, highlighter gives your face a gorgeous, fresh look. The pop of seafoam green in the fold-over clutch adds a surprising and polished detail. Again, keeping with the "fresh" and sophisticated look.

Enjoy a romantic night out looking fabulous! For more Valentine's Day inspiration visit this Gal's Guide to Valentine's Day at handbagheaven.com!

While Sarah Thaman may not be a professional stylist, she prides herself on choosing fashion that looks polished and classic, and she's always helping friends choose their date outfits. Although she's a writer for Handbag Heaven by day, outside of work she takes joy in being a matchmaker, a newlywed, and a momma to her precious puppy, Luna.

Video Exclusive: Food Network's Anne Burrell Gives Valentine's Day Cooking Tips





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Food Network star Anne Burrell knows a thing or two about spurring the fires of romance over the flame of a hot stove.

Cooking has always been revered as a mutual romantic touchstone, and no day is better to exploit this fact than on Valentine's Day. Be it chocolates or spaghetti with a nice bolognese sauce, treating your partner's palette with care can lead to delicious consequences. Anne dishes on how to cook for your partner this Valentine's Day, using the kitchen as an aphrodisiac atmosphere where love can only grow.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our YouTube channel.

Valentine's Day Love Advice: Does Your Relationship Add

Up?



By Donetta Huffman

Finding out if you and your sweetheart are meant to be is sometimes a gut feeling, judged by your relationship's strengths and flaws. However, many couples (more often women) seek clarity by visiting psychics and astrologers. Whether for fun or to validate some serious decision-making about the fate of a relationship, these 'supernatural' predicting methods are a trend for young women looking for advice. If you're a numbers gal, numerology may be the thing that you crave.

Numerology is the study of the symbolism of numbers to determine a couples life path, destiny, soul and overall compatibility. It can lead you to some

interesting romance facts. You may have heard about numerology, but thought it was a complicated mathematical process that was difficult to master. Don't worry; it's not like those hard to memorize, crazy x-y equations that made your palms sweat and gave your stomach butterflies while taking high school algebra tests. It's much simpler and can be easier applied and utilized in your everyday life. The math is fairly simple. Here's what you do:

Related: [How to Define Your Aura to Find Lasting Love](#)

First, take the birthday of your boyfriend, husband, fling or love crush and add the numbers together one-by-one. For example, Justin Timberlake was born on: 1-31-1981. So add $1+3+1+1+9+8+1$. The sum that you get should be double digits. In this example we get the number 24. Now add those two numbers together to get the single digit Life Path for that person. In this case, Justin's Life Path number is $2+4=6$. This number has a meaning that numerology specialists use to decode relationships.

Take a look at these three celebrity couples below to see if numerology ranks true for these Hollywood Sweethearts:

Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel

These two have very compatible numbers, Justin is a 6 and Jessica an 8. Both are goal-oriented and do not shy away from responsibilities. These two may pursue their goals in different ways, but as long as they play off of each other's strengths, their relationship has a chance to last. In addition, Jessica has an 8 Soul and Personality and Justin has an 8 Destiny, so the couple feels like they understand one another on a deeper level. Jessica feels protected by Justin, with his nurturing 6 Life Path. They actually share numbers with an actress who eventually became a princess. Grace Kelly transformed into Princess Grace when she left Hollywood and married Prince Rainier of Monaco in 1956. This is still known

as one of the greatest [love stories](#) of all time.

Related: [Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel Show PDA at Dinner Party](#)

LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian

This couple got off to a somewhat rocky start, as they were both married to other people when they met. LeAnn is a Life Path 2 and Eddie is a Life Path 6. Considered one of the most loving unions, this is a romantic combination, as both numbers [love](#) easily, without holding back. Neither number is afraid to show their true feelings. Also, with LeAnn's 2 Life Path, she sees herself in Eddie's 2 Personality. His 6 Life Path recognizes her 9 Soul, thus having a deep artistic connection. LeAnn and Eddie are in great company when it comes to lasting relationships. With the same number combinations, Hollywood icon Bob Hope and his wife Delores were married for 69 years, while Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos have it all – three lovely children and very busy, successful careers.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Somewhat of a curious combination of numbers, with Angelina's 5 Life Path and Brad's 4 Life Path. This can sometimes be a challenging combination, as 4's usually like routine, whereas 5's love change and the unexpected, but that is where the initial attraction might have started. They are so different, but could have found admiration in these qualities. Angelina not only has a 6 Soul, but also a 6 Destiny – it is no wonder she keeps having and adopting children. 6's are the maternal, paternal number. When she met Brad, she saw this in Brad's 6 Personality. The qualities they show to the world are that of loving parents. With Angelina's adventurous Life Path 5, life with her promises never to be boring!

Originating from the most well-known Greek mathematical thinker, Pythagoras, Numerology predates Tarot, and is quickly

becoming the biggest craze in self help. Semi-Circle Numerology cards can give people the ability to feel powerful in the realization that they have been sent here for a purpose and given many tools to accomplish life's mission.

For more information on Donetta Huffman and Numerology or to purchase one of her many services, visit www.semicirclegenumerology.com.

Valentine's Day Advice: Indulge In Simple Pleasures



By Renee Lee

It doesn't matter if you live life in the fast lane, with family in the suburbs, or somewhere in between, Valentine's Day is a time to take a moment to appreciate yourself and those we love. My rule of thumb is to remove all pressures associated with the holiday and instead indulge in life's simple pleasures. Because I am a Matchmaker here in NYC, I've ended up working in a very celebrity focused market.

Therefore, let's take a look at recent heart break and hookups as examples on how to make Valentine's Day that much sweeter.

Treat yourself to chocolates

Going through a Demi Moore style break up is awful! The dread of Valentines Day looming ahead can feel more excruciating than the idea of an all day screening of *The Notebook*. But the key thing to remember is the Diva you are within. Forget the "I am no one, until someone loves me" stigma, and instead take a moment to be kind and celebrate the most awesome love of all – the love for yourself! Why be upset you didn't end up with some sad drugstore chocolate, when you truly deserve something as sophisticated as Frangelico Truffles? These truffles, created by my favorite sweet liqueur, are the perfect simple pleasure when it comes to treating yourself.

Plus, once you realize your worth in chocolates, you will never again accept a boy to do a man's job.

Bring back the first meal you had together

For couples like Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel who have been through the break-ups, shake ups, and make ups, why not take a moment to celebrate the joys of what brought you to the strong place you are in now? A great way to go back to the simple pleasures for dinner is to cook the first meal you ever made together. For a gift highlighting your life together, create a photo book of your life so far, with the last page saying "to be continued..."

Predict your own future

This will be the first Valentine's Day that Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston spend together, so why not get a little frisky? Jennifer is probably over tabloids predicting her future, and perhaps your family and friends do the same thing to you. This time it's your turn. Create her own future with some custom fortune cookies. Nothing will be more of a surprise than an after dinner dessert that holds sexy hints to your next move for the evening.

Dedicate and decorate cupcakes

It's Heidi Klum's first Valentine's Day with just the kids and no Seal, so a great idea is to make cupcakes with a heart. Put all the family members names in a hat, and have each person grab one or two. For the person you selected, you will decorate a cupcake as a dedication to them. No matter if it's for an ex-husband, best friend, book smart cousin or meddling sister, it's a creative way to remember those who make your life sweeter.

So this year, take a minute, de-stress and think about those simple pleasures that make life sweet; whether it's a Frangelico truffle, time with your children or something as easy and nice as a meal and a great book.

Renee Lee is a Matchmaker in NYC and has a Master's Degree in Counseling from New York University's Department of Applied Psychology. She's been featured in publications such as OK! Weekly, In-Touch Weekly, People Magazine, and The New York Daily News, and also hosts her own radio show "Your Dating Truth with Renee Lee."

Valentine's Day Date Ideas: Five Unique Ways to Spend the Holiday



By Erika Mionis

Valentine's Day is the one holiday completely dedicated to our love lives. If you're single, you'll survive. If you're in a relationship, then congratulations! Now you can worry about gifts and date ideas for the coming holiday. Though there's nothing wrong with the classic dinner date, you can be sure you and your significant other won't be the only couple with the same idea. Here are a few unique date ideas to make this Valentine's Day one you'll never forget:

1. Hot air balloon ride: Hot air balloon rides are well worth the expense. Find the nearest hot air balloon company (it may be a bit of a drive, depending on where you live) and set out to see the sunrise or sunset. Most companies offer a light breakfast or dinner after the ride. Hot air balloons can easily carry up to five people, so try splitting the cost with another couple.

2. Horse-back riding: For the animal-loving couple, a date on horseback can be fun and romantic. Most ranches offer trail rides that bring you through isolated parts of nature. Make sure to talk over lunch or dinner afterward, as loud conversation mid-trail often startles the horses.

3. Hiking: Tough out the last of winter on an outdoorsy date with your partner. Make sure to pick a trail that suits your athletic abilities, because though exercise is fun, it's hard to feel attractive when you're sweating and gasping for air. Pack a picnic for a quick lunch/snack once you reach the end of the trail or the top of a mountain.

4. Paint pottery: Decorating pottery is a fun and creative way to spend the holiday. You can work as a team on a single pottery piece, or you can each work separately and compare your craftsmanship. For the especially artsy couple, try making pottery instead of just painting it.

5. Play games: Try visiting an upscale arcade to play some pool. To make the game a little more interesting, decide on a friendly wager, like a massage exchange. After the game, grab some quarters or tokens and visit some of the other games in the arcade. Your next competition comes in the form of skee ball.

Do you have any Valentine's Day date ideas? Feel free to share them below.

Valentine's Day Outfit Ideas: Sweet



By Sarah Thaman

Excited about an upcoming Valentine's Day date? Even if you're going out with your husband or long time bf, it's a great excuse to shake things up and go out for a night on the town. Lost on what to wear? Never fear! I'm here with three different looks that are sure to please you and your man. Here's the second installment:

If the sophisticated and sexy styles aren't really you, go for a sweet look with pinks and reds! After all, it is

Valentine's Day. Take a cue from the holiday's signature colors and pull together a feminine ensemble. Don't worry, this "sweet" look won't be too candy hearts and lollipops.

This dress hits on the color-block trend and the sheer fabric makes this look extra flirty. A red wedge offsets the outfit, and the quilted handbag makes for a great shoulder bag. Use a light pink makeup palette to keep your face soft and pretty.

Enjoy a romantic night out looking fabulous! For more Valentine's Day inspiration visit Handbag Heaven's Gal's Guide to Valentine's Day!

While Sarah Thaman may not be a professional stylist, she prides herself on choosing fashion that looks polished and classic, and she's always helping friends choose their date outfits. Although she's a writer for Handbag Heaven by day, outside of work she takes joy in being a matchmaker, a newlywed, and a momma to her precious puppy, Luna.

Valentine's Day Gift Idea: Key to My Heart Calendar Datesake Pendant





This post is sponsored by NotJustAnyOldDay.com.

As Valentine's Day approaches many people scramble to find that perfect gift for their sweetheart. So, when another box of chocolates or long-stem roses simply won't do, order that special woman in your life a personalized Calendar Key Pendant from Not Just Any Old Day.

The jewelry is handcrafted and made from the heart. The key can be custom plated in silver, gold, gun metal or antique bronze, and will bear whatever date is special to the wearer.

This signature calendar "Datesake" charm pendant is a hip, stylish accessory that is not only beautiful, but will be a main conversation piece for years to come. Celebrities like Ben Affleck, Vern Troyer, Joe Jonas, and Scott Baio have all given gifts like this to show appreciation for the ones they love, now you can too.

This Valentine's Day, don't give the ordinary, give the extraordinary!

Check out the complete collection of Calendar Datesake jewelry at www.NotJustAnyOldDay.com.

Top 10 Most Romantic Movie Locations



By Matthew Dougherty

The big day for romance is coming up, which means it's time to figure out where you might spend the holiday. Here are ten locations from great movies that if you can afford to visit, and if they are real, they would be a perfect spot to spend Valentine's Day with your significant other.

10. Hawaii- *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*

In *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, Jason Segel's character goes to Hawaii to get over his recently ended relationship. On the

trip he finds a new love in Mila Kunis. They spend their time together going to bars, hanging out on the beach, and exploring the beautiful islands. Hawaii proves to be a land of love in this great romantic comedy.

Related: [Celebrities Who Love to Vacation in Hawaii](#)

9. Forks, Washington- *Twilight*

The atmosphere may be gloomy, but love is in the air in this small northwestern town. Whether you are into vampires or werewolves, Forks has everything you would need for a perfect Valentine's Day. The true challenge will be trying to find a date who won't bite.

8. Aboard the Titanic- *Titanic*

Unfortunately, the Titanic is buried under water, but it was such a beautiful ship. And, while the plot may be mostly fictional, Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio make their love so believable that you forget what has to happen in the end, making that iceberg all the more tragic. Titanic was a perfect place to meet someone and if it hadn't sunk, it would have made a great Valentine's Day vacation.

7. Hogwarts- *Harry Potter*

Like any other high school, Hogwarts is a place full of drama. Whether it's the return of the Dark Lord, or the hero's first kiss, Hogwarts never feels too far off from your ordinary Muggle high school. The second half of the series saw Harry date his best friend's sister while Ron and Hermione finally get together. No love potion required.

Related: [The Most Romantic Destinations in the United States](#)

6. 1920s Paris- *Midnight in Paris*

Paris on its own is perhaps the most romantic city in the

world, but as portrayed in *Midnight in Paris*, the 1920s was the time to be there for true romance. Running into such legends as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald, Owen Wilson's character eventually falls for a beautiful French girl, played by Marion Cotillard. This beautiful city becomes the stem from which their love blossoms.

5. The American South- *The Notebook*, *Gone With the Wind*, *Forrest Gump*

A lot of great love stories take place in the South. One of the earliest and most famous is *Gone With the Wind*, which took place in Georgia. *Forrest Gump* and *Jenny* both grew up in Alabama. *The Notebook* took place in South Carolina. Clearly, the South is the place to be for love.

4. Beast's Castle- *Beauty and the Beast*

In this tale as old as time, Belle is taken to a beautiful castle full of lively characters and one beast. But as the story goes, the beauty falls in love with the beast in this magical place. Furniture speaks when Belle and the beast choose not to.

3. Any 1980s High School- *Sixteen Candles*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *The Breakfast Club*

High school is a time where everyone at least partly grows into who they are meant to be. A lot of that has to do with relationships. In the 1980s, director John Hughes made three movies that got high school perfectly, while having that '80s stamp on them. *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* all showed high school romances at their best.

Related: [Weekend Date Idea in the Big Apple](#)

2. New York- *Manhattan*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *Spider-man*, *New Year's Eve*

New York City is the setting for numerous love stories. Woody Allen saw the romance of the Big Apple in his film *Manhattan*. *When Harry Met Sally* shows Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan fall for each other in the populated borough. Plus, who can forget the upside down kiss Spiderman and Mary Jane shared? The most recent romance in New York was *New Year's Eve*, a film showcasing a large number of romances. Clearly Manhattan is the place to be for love, but one other movie location beats it out...

1. Casablanca- *Casablanca*

Arguably the best love story ever told aside from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Casablanca* is a classic film that is all about its location. Humphrey Bogart stars as Rick Blaine, the owner of a nightclub in Casablanca. An old flame comes back into his life, and they end up rekindling their love. It is the ultimate love story, but since Casablanca is in Africa, you may just want to rent this one instead.

What other movie locations would you want to visit on Valentine's Day? Share your thoughts below.

**Find Out Victoria's Secret
Angel Adriana Lima's
Valentine's Day Wish**





Winning a supermodel's heart this Valentine's Day may be easier than it looks. As Victoria's Secret Angel Adriana Lima told [People](#), roses seem to be the key. "If my husband sends them to me at home, I'll be very happy. There's nothing better than to receive flowers from someone you love," said Lima. Other supermodels said they desired gifts with a personal touch such as hand-written notes on Valentine's Day.

What are some ways to show your partner you care on Valentine's Day?

Cupid's Advice:

Showing that special someone you care on Valentine's Day or any other day of the year doesn't have to be expensive or over the top. It seems to be the little things that make the biggest impressions. Cupid has some tips:

1. Tell them how you feel: If you love someone, you can't say it enough. There are so many ways to say "I love you," such as via social media or the old fashioned way with a handwritten note.

2. Send a gift: Make your partner feel special by sending them a small gift such as flowers to their home or office.

3. Go out with eat: Show your partner you care and want to spend time with them over a special meal. Stay home and cook or make reservations at a classy restaurant.

What are you dreaming of getting from your partner this Valentine's Day? Share your wishes below.

Valentine's Day Love Advice: How to Survive the Holiday



By Melanie Mar

Congratulations, you survived! During the past couple of months you plowed through the relationship equivalent of a marathon. You survived the agony of choosing the perfect gifts for your loved one during the holidays, then rang in the new year with great cheer, good spirit and much love. So, now it's time to sit back, relax and take it easy on the romance front, right? Wrong!

Before you can even catch your breath, Valentine's Day is upon us, the most romantic day of the year – so we are told. Contrary to what popular culture wants us to believe, for many people, Valentine's Day is less fun and flirty and more stressful and sad. Maybe it highlights that another year has passed and you're still not in a relationship, or recently have suffered a hurtful separation. Perhaps you just simply don't know what to do to make this day as special and romantic for your partner as societal pressure dictates. Talk about unneeded anxiety!

There is no escaping this pressure, either. All the shop windows have comical, over-sized hearts displayed and cheeky cherubs pointing their arrows at you, not to mention the red bows and the red ribbons and the cute cards and the cute teddy bears ... STOP! Take a deep breath – we will get through this together.

If you are single, I want you to create your own ideal Valentine's Day. View it as the one opportunity this year that you can truly pamper and spoil yourself. Whether you buy flowers, light candles, listen to music, get a massage or find a jacuzzi and relax, make this day about romancing yourself. This is your special day! Do it for you, because you love you and try not to get too wrapped up in the hype.

Another way to enjoy Valentine's Day as a singleton is to celebrate those you love. Your lucky valentine can be your

parent, your friend or your dog whose day you have chosen to brighten. It's a fabulous excuse to show extra love to those you care about.

When you are in a relationship, one of the biggest pitfalls is gift expectations. I suggest you buy a joint journal – you may even call it your dream journal. You both can write in this journal at anytime, expressing anything that either of you would like to receive from the other. These dreams can be both sexual and non-sexual; they can be a highly sought after material item or a simple request that costs nothing. Whenever the fancy takes you, jot down these thoughts, ideas, things, web sites or photos, knowing that at some point they will be seen and read by the other person. Do not expect anything of each other and you may well be pleasantly surprised!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Love, Melanie

For more information, visit Melanie's Mar's Facebook page or contact her at info@melaniemar.com. A complete overview of her services can be found at www.melaniemar.com.

**Valentine's Day Gift Idea:
Celebrate Being Single with
Ode À la ROSE**





This post is sponsored by Ode À la ROSE.

This Valentine's Day don't mope around and feel bad for being alone. Celebrate being single! What better way is there to enjoy yourself than with beautiful red roses? Ode À la ROSE can help you do just that. Ode À la ROSE is a French-inspired, New York service that delivers what woman want for Valentine's Day.

Ladies don't deny yourself a day full of love just because you do not have a significant other. Include your girlfriends in the festivities as well by surprising them with a bouquet and let them know you love them for always being there for you. Don't let anyone feel alone this year on Valentine's Day. Ode À la ROSE is whimsical, romantic and fun – "Aren't you the lucky one!?"

Ode À la ROSE was recently started by two young men from France, who often turned to roses throughout their youth to seal the deal after a date, melt their mothers' hearts and yes "help detract women from their bad actions." Upon moving to New York, Olivier and Louis soon found out that it was

impossible to get a simple and sweet bouquet of singularly beautiful roses in America. There was no reliable corner flower shop and no delivery service that offered perfectly cut, boutique-level roses while being affordable at the same time... thus, Ode À la ROSE was born.

You can be sure you are getting high quality flowers because Ode À la ROSE sells beautiful and authentically Parisian style, quality fresh rose bouquets using only the highest quality roses ensuring long lasting freshness. Also, all of the bouquets are hand-delivered the same day in a signature Ode À la ROSE gift box. The gift boxes are unlike any other and a presentation to itself. Not only will it arrive in the same day but, a photo of the bouquet is taken right before it leaves the workshop and emailed to the sender along with the exact delivery time.

Special Discount: Ode À la ROSE is offering you a 10% discount for Valentine's Day. To enjoy 10% off on all of their products "like" Ode À la ROSE's facebook page to obtain a promo code.

Ladies, share this with your friends and most of all... celebrate being single! Don't miss out on beautiful flowers this Valentine's Day, call Ode À la ROSE.

Valentine's Day Outfit Ideas: Sexy





By Sarah Thaman

Excited about an upcoming Valentine's Day date? Even if you're going out with your husband or long time bf, it's a great excuse to shake things up and go out for a night on the town. Lost on what to wear? Never fear! I'm here with three different looks that are sure to please you and your man. Here's the first one:

Go for an understated, sexy look this Valentine's Day. Instead of baring it all, choose a dress with a fair amount of coverage, and just the right amount of skin. This one-shoulder body con dress is sure to do the trick. Plus, it's navy, which happens to be the new black. Keep accessories nude and minimal to bring the focus to your face. A nude lip and smokey eye would pair beautifully with this look, and so would a low messy bun. The clutch purse with a large buckle is a great match for this look! Be fierce and fabulous in this sexy look.

Enjoy a romantic night out looking fabulous! For more Valentine's Day inspiration visit [Handbag Heaven's Gal's Guide](#)

to Valentine's Day!

While Sarah Thaman may not be a professional stylist, she prides herself on choosing fashion that looks polished and classic, and she's always helping friends choose their date outfits. Although she's a writer for Handbag Heaven by day, outside of work she takes joy in being a matchmaker, a newlywed, and a momma to her precious puppy, Luna.

Valentine's Day Date Idea: Gray Line NYC Night on the Town Tour





This post is sponsored by Gray Line New York.

Do something different this Valentines Day by taking the Night on the Town Tour with that special someone. Gray Line New York is offering a romantic date option for this love-filled holiday which would include:

- A fully guided tour of lower Manhattan in the comfort of a heated motorcoach
- A romantic dinner at one of Little Italy's oldest restaurants
- A cruise on board NY Watertaxi where you'll stop for a champagne toast with a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty
- A guided walking tour of the new Highline Park in the Meat packing district
- And a ticket for a jaw-dropping view of the city skyline from the Top of the Rock Observatory

This exclusive offer is being given at **\$20 off the original price!** The tours depart at 6:00 p.m. from Gray Line New York's visitor center at 777 8th Avenue, and return at 10:30 p.m. Take your Valentine on a date they'll never forget!

Valentine's Day Advice: How Successful Women Can Ditch Dating Duds



By Jane Atkinson

A few weeks ago, on the new hit show *Whitney*, one of the characters was freezing her eggs in order to delay finding a partner and having children. Is this a sign of the times?

Both women and men are waiting longer and longer to get married for the first time, according to the Census Bureau, and fewer women are having babies before their 40th birthdays,

the Centers for Disease Control reports. Interestingly, more and more women are having babies well into their 40s. Could it be that it has become more difficult for couples to connect romantically?

Related: [Romance Resolutions for 2012](#)

“Women are likely to be more independent and professionally successful than they were a generation or two ago, and that’s wonderful, but it can come with baggage,” says Jane Atkinson, author of *The Frog Whisperer: A Three-Step Approach to Finding Lasting Love*. “We’re less likely to think about the energy we’re putting out to others, particularly the opposite sex, and that energy has a lot to do with how people react to us.”

The thing is, finding Mr. or Ms. Right requires taking your eyes off of work and focusing on yourself more. What can you do to become the person *you* would want to date? Atkinson offers some tips for finding “the one.”

Related: [Fishing for Mr. Right – Types of Guys to Throw Back](#)

Figure out what you’re looking for: Have you thought hard about what kind of person you’re looking for? One trick is to visualize your perfect day. Are you at the beach? Traveling? Is the man with you quiet or chatty? Is the woman serious or funny? Does he want children? Does she go to church? This will help you identify the characteristics and values of your Mr. or Ms. Right so you can recognize them when he or she comes along.

Get happy in your own head: Once again, it’s all about attraction. Putting out positive, confident energy will attract the same. Besides, it’s never a good idea to rely on other people to make us happy. If you need to recover from old hurts, lose weight or find a job, take care of that business first.

Think you're ready? Test yourself with this quick quiz.

1. Are you happy with yourself? (Or are you miserable because you've put on 50 pounds since your divorce?)
2. Are you looking for someone to rescue you or take care of you? (If you answer "yes" to this one, you may not be ready.)
3. Is there room in your life for a relationship? (Or do you have three kids and work a 60-hour week?)
4. Has enough time passed since your last relationship? (Or are you still wounded?)

Now, get yourself fabulous. Rather than, "Why can't I find a good man?" ask yourself, "Who do I need to become to attract the man (or woman) who is perfect for me?" It's not about changing you; it's about being your best you. Part of that is your mojo – your self-esteem. If your mojo is slipping, you'll attract control freaks, players and jerks. Pump it up with a makeover, a workout, a sincere inventory of your attributes.

Get out there! Put on your sexy jeans get yourself out the door. Where to start looking? If you enjoy working with your hands, volunteer for a Habitat for Humanity project. If you've always wanted to learn Italian, take a class. If you love to do yoga, check out a new studio (ladies, you'll find a surprising number of guys there.) Perhaps you find a new church or take a class on Buddhism. The list of meeting spots for singles is a long one: bookstores, dance clubs, supper clubs, book clubs, gyms, golf courses, rowing clubs, dog parks.

Atkinson's tips come from real-life experience. At 40, she realized she'd been [kissing](#) a lot of frogs and found not one prince. She applied the model she developed for her business, tweaked it and came up with "The Frog Whisperer" – *and* a prince of a husband.

Although it was never in her playbook to have children, when

she got married, she became an instant stepmom and grandmother (G-Ma) to now 4-year-old Jayden. Looking back, she realizes it sure beat freezing eggs and starting down the difficult road to conception in mid-life!

Jane Atkinson is the author of The Frog Whisperer and The Frog Whisperer Journal as well as a Positive Practice audio CD to help women (and men) get mentally ready for meeting their perfect mate. She lives in London, Ontario, with her husband of four years, John.

Valentine's Day Giveaway: Glamorous Count Me Healthy Bracelets





This post is sponsored by Count Me Healthy Jewelry.

By Jeannine Drenchek-Scavo

If you're looking for a great Valentine's Day gift for your loved one, Count Me Healthy Bracelets are the hottest new trend. The bracelet is designed to help you achieve a healthy goal with style. You simply turn your daily target into a bead count.

Celebrities like Selena Gomez and Cameron Diaz love their Count Me Healthy bangles, and have been seen rocking them out in public. They are a perfect gift for Valentine's Day. The Wild at Heart style (Selena's style of choice) is available in gold, rose gold and sterling and features 12 beads—each etched with a heart. They are less than \$100, making it a great piece of jewelry to give wives, girlfriends, sisters, moms—any woman that loves style and wearing the same jewelry as A-list celebs.

Quick tidbits about the glamorous bangles:

– Guiliana Rancic, Fergie, Kelly Osbourne and other fashion-forward celebs also love and wear them.

- Available in over 15 gorgeous styles
- Two styles dedicated to helping raise breast cancer awareness and women heart healthy initiatives.

To shop and for more info visit www.CMHJewelry.com

Five Signs Your Relationship Won't Make It Until Valentine's Day



By [Whitney Baker](#)

For many couples, the lead-up to Valentine's Day is an

exciting time filled with promise and possibility. The cold weather offers an excuse to snuggle up, while the holidays are the perfect reason to shower each other with love and affection. Unfortunately, many relationships aren't so lucky.

According to a recent study in *Men's Health*, the time span from Christmas to Valentine's Day is one of the most common break-up times of the year.

Regardless of the month or season, when your relationship is over, you just *know*. But if you're still on the fence, unsure what to do about your love interest, here are five red flags you should watch for in your relationship. Otherwise, you probably won't make it to Valentine's Day:

1. Too much fighting: The holidays are a special time to share with your significant other; they should be filled with fun, [food](#) and family, not fighting. If you find yourself unhappy more often than not, it may be time to [call it quits](#).

Related: [The Holidays: 8 Ways to Ruin Your Relationship](#)

2. Finding other priorities: New Year's Eve marks the start of a new year and the chance for a new beginning. That said, who better to kick things off with than the one you love? If you'd rather hang out with your friends or spend a low-key night with your family, you need to consider why. Spending time with your partner should be a priority, especially on such a fun holiday.

3. No connection left: Lack of similarity emerges over time, and these differences can either bring you closer together or tear you apart. You need to feel connected to your partner, and something as simple as an impersonal present or thoughtless holiday card can be enough to make you feel distant and misunderstood.

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

4. Nothing to say: When your relationship is new, you always have something to talk about, but as time goes on, conversation may become stale and forced. Remember that communication is key for every successful relationship. With nothing left to say, it may be time to start looking somewhere else for love.

5. Making plans alone: The beginning of January is typically a time to reflect on the year behind you and plan for the year ahead. If you and your partner have a strong and stable relationship, then the two of you will make plans *together*. Thinking about events, vacations and getaways that take you away from your significant other could mean you're ready for a fresh start in more ways than one.

Cupid wants to know: How did you know when your relationship was over?

Valentine's Day Giveaway: 45-Minute Numerology Reading





This post is sponsored by Donetta Huffman.

“What’s your sign?” is now a thing of the past. The phrase for 2012 and new trend is, “What’s your number?” Donetta Huffman specializes in personal readings, counseling her clients about their career paths, personal lives and business decisions. She is also highly skilled in romance and compatibility, helping individuals understand themselves and others on a much deeper level. Rather than using the stars for tarot cards and horoscopes, she uses numbers to tell all. The first of it’s kind, these cards can be utilized using only a birth date and given birth name. This method makes it extremely simple for everyone to calculate his or her own destiny.

For more information on Donetta Huffman and Numerology or to purchase one of her many services, visit www.semicircenumerology.com.

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** Sign up to receive our weekly [e-newsletter](#) between February 1-14 and you will be automatically entered to win one free, 45-minute personal reading by Donetta Huffman, a professional Numerologist. She will also throw in~~

her own set of Numerology cards to boot!

This giveaway is now closed.

Ten Signs You're Dating A Jerk



By Che Blackwood

Valentine's Day is a great excuse to strap on your tallest heels and reserve a window seat at a chic lounge for some champagne and brie. Or, for the more traditional lady, there's no greater treat than spending an evening enjoying red wine and dark chocolate with your love, be it your soul mate

or your best friend. The only wrong way to spend this special day is with a jerk. Sometimes hard to spot, these heartbreakers have a pension for making their dates feel awful and are experts in keeping a relationship miserable.

Fortunately, enough women have been there before you and there are now many easy to spot red flags. Keeping a lookout for these top ten signs you're with a jerk is the first step to ensuring you won't have a Valentine's Day to regret:

1. He talks down to you: If he talks to you as if you're a child, or incapable of making smart decisions, you deserve better. The same goes if he acts like you're unable to live a productive life without him, speaks poorly of you in front of his friends, or treats you like a servant. There's nothing funny about a man talking to his girlfriend as though she's less than he is.

2. He doesn't support you: So you want to be a famous ballerina who sells diamond encrusted dog collars on the side? Fine, your best friends support you and so should your man. If your beau acts like your dreams are unattainable or stupid, or if he refuses to encourage you at all, forget him. Everyone needs a support system and if he can't believe in your dreams, he certainly shouldn't reap the benefits of your eventual success.

3. He tries to make you jealous: If he talks too fondly about his [ex](#), still excitedly mentions his single hook-ups or reminds you of the tanned, muscular legs on your best friend, he's trying to make you jealous. He's probably insecure, and the worse you feel the more confident he becomes, meaning this behavior is never going to end. Move on and make a brighter future for yourself while he's stuck daydreaming about the past.

4. He makes you feel second best: We all deserve to spend a guilt-free night out with our friends and sometimes work and

other real world obligations demand our immediate attention.

That said, if your man is constantly canceling dates to grab a beer with the guys or to score some overtime at the office, then the last thing on his priority list is you and that's not OK.

5. He forgets your anniversary: It's not difficult to remember the dates that are important to us. Think of it this way – has your man ever forgotten his own birthday? If he can't find the time to recall your wedding anniversary or the night the two of you became official, then it's not important enough to him.

Related: [Dave and Odette Annable Celebrate Anniversary at Wedding](#)

6. He doesn't make you feel beautiful: Whether it's waking up on the wrong side of the bed or forgetting to tweeze the brows, no one can constantly look perfect. But, if your date is *always* bringing up your curves, wrinkles and bad hair days without once mentioning your great attributes, it's time to find someone new.

7. He never pays: Most partners know that their sweethearts can't afford extravagant dinners or weekend getaways more than a few times a year. However, if your honey refuses to ever foot the bill, then there's a good chance he isn't taking your feelings seriously. It doesn't cost a lot to treat you to a movie or to share a few appetizers at your favorite restaurant and he should love seeing the look of appreciation on your face when he does.

Related: [Five Ways to Cut Down on Dating Costs](#)

8. He doesn't fight well: One of the greatest tests of a relationship is seeing how your partner reacts during an argument. If he is quick to raise his voice, insult you or, even worse, hit you, then he's a certifiable jerk. If he loses his cool completely during an argument, then he is

losing sight of the relationship all together.

9. He won't forgive you: We *all* make mistakes, but being bold enough to acknowledge your wrong doings and apologize is an attribute your date should appreciate. However, if your man refuses to accept your apologies, or if he constantly holds your past missteps over your head, then he's too immature and petty for a woman of your caliber.

10. He cheats on you: If your man is willing to disrespect you and disregard your feelings enough to become intimate with another woman, whether physically or emotionally, you need to drop him today. Every woman should require a partner that loves, respects and cherishes them.

How did you know you were dating a jerk? Share your experiences below.

Bethenny Frankel Recommends Lazy Lingerie to Keep Your Spark





Are you trying to keep the spark alive in your relationship? Try lazy lingerie! Former *Real Housewives of New York City* star Bethenny Frankel kept the romantic sparks in her relationship alive this Valentine's Day with the help of just that. "You have to make an effort ... I actually have a line coming out which is Skinny Girl Smoothers and shapers and they include lazy lingerie. Because it's something you wear under a blazer or sweater and then you take off the sweater, and now you have lingerie!" she said in an interview on [RadarOnline](#). Frankel also spilled more secrets on how she and her husband, Jason Hoppy, keep the sparks alive in their marriage. "We do date night once a week. We switch off on who chooses the surprise place we're going to go and we usually pick some hip place so we can still feel like we're cool..."

What are some ways to keep the spark alive in your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Keeping the excitement in a relationship can be tough. Cupid is here to offer some advice on keeping the romantic sparks in

your love life from disappearing:

1. New hobby: Pick up a new hobby that both you and your partner will enjoy. Not only will trying out a new activity be fun, but you'll also discover new talents in each other.

2. Surprise him/her: Relationships become dull when they become routines. Surprise your significant other by taking him/her to a vocation or a play. Even something as simple as giving flowers will make his or her day.

3. Communicate: Keep the spark alive by being attentive to each others' needs. Your relationship and respect for one another will grow as you both continue to share opinions and feelings.