

Valentine Hearts

A Guide for Guys

Chanson L. Amour

My love is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June :
My love is like the melody
That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in love am I :
And I will love thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun :
And I will love thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only love,
And fare thee weel a while !
And I will come again, my love,
Thou' it were ten thousand mile.


~Robert Burns

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—CURT SCHILLING
World Series Champion

A photograph of Curt Schilling, a professional baseball pitcher, in a white Boston Red Sox uniform. He is captured in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with his right leg extended and his left leg bent, holding a baseball in his right hand and a baseball glove in his left. The background is a light, textured pattern.

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A Very Brief History of Valentine's Day - Sort of...

Love is the enchanted dawn of every heart.

~ Lamartine

Valentine's Day is drawing near, that day that melts the deep winter frost in the warmth of love...

At least that's the theory. Yet just as mysterious and accidental as love itself is the relationship of St. Valentine to the customs of the day named for him.

Legends abound regarding the origins of Valentine's Day. Some relate it to an ancient Roman fertility festival called Lupercalia, which apparently occurred on February 15th, not the 14th.

The spoil-sport *Encyclopedia Britannica*, in the authoritative 11th edition of 1911, states, "Their appropriateness to the spring season is, in a general way perhaps, obvious enough, but the association of the lovers' festivals with St Valentine seems to be purely accidental."

As if that wasn't enough, this esteemed reference goes on to tell us there was more than one St. Valentine. "...VALENTINE, or VALENTINUS, the name of a considerable number of saints. The most celebrated are the two martyrs whose festivals fall on the 14th of February - the one, a Roman priest, the other, bishop of Terni..." (Vol. 27, pp. 850-851)

According to the less authoritative [Wikipedia](#), Geoffrey Chaucer, author of the *Canterbury Tales*, was the first to connect Valentine's Day with romantic love, in his poem, *Parliament of Fowls*, written to commemorate the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia, which happened on May 3, 1381. Yes, that's right, May 3rd. You see that was another St. Valentine's day on the Church calendar. He went on to write a couple more poems referencing Valentine's Day in connection with May 3rd.

At any rate, by the end of his life, it all got sorted out, and the date became associated with the 14th of February. But if you do forget, and are really brave enough, you can use this [UCLA professor](#) as your source to try for a 70 day grace period.

Let us know how it works.

As far as we know, the first Valentine contained a small poem written by Charles, the Duke of Orleans, to his wife, from his prison cell in the Tower of London. He had been captured during the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

Things sort of quieted down for a few hundred years afterwards. There is little mention of the day or celebrations of it in the historical records.

Valentine's Day sort of re-emerged in the late 1840's in America, when the New Englander Esther Howland created and sold the first mass produced Valentine cards in her father's book and stationary store. She is now a hero to the Greeting Card Association, which claims that Valentine's is the 2nd largest card sending occasion.

Celebrating Valentine's Day - A Modest Proposal

Who would give a law to lovers? Love is unto itself a higher law.
~ Boethius

While the 3rd of May is a bit long to wait, consider this alternative. You may enjoy celebrating Valentine's Day but get annoyed or stressed out if you try to celebrate it on February 14th. This is because one of the most popular ways to celebrate Valentine's Day is by going out to dinner. Restaurants are often overcrowded and have long waits to be seated. Some restaurants do not take reservations for February 14th and even the ones that do often have difficulty honoring them when huge crowds show up. Many couples choose to celebrate Valentine's Day by going out to dinner a day or two late or even a day or two early. There is nothing wrong with this and you can enjoy a much more relaxing celebration.

If you are planning to go out to dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day but are having trouble making reservations, consider making your reservations for the day before or after, or the first weekend after Valentine's Day. This will give you additional options and make your planning easier. However, consult your partner to make sure she won't be disappointed if you celebrate this lover's holiday a day or two early or late. For many women, it's important to observe the actual date. And you don't want to ruin your relationship over Valentine's Day! Of course, even if she doesn't mind, it's still a good idea to spring for a box of chocolates or a few roses on the 14th. You gotta keep her happy!

If your beloved will be extremely disappointed about celebrating Valentine's Day on another date, you might alter your plans rather than delay them. Actually, scratch that "might". Don't even think about upsetting your lover over Valentine's Day! Just make other arrangements. For example if you want to avoid having to wait more than an hour for a table at a fancy restaurant, try cooking a great meal for her instead. You will still be celebrating in a really fun way but won't have the stress of dealing with a crowded restaurant.

Sometimes it's not merely a matter of convenience that makes it necessary to celebrate Valentine's Day a day or two early or late. You or your partner may have an unusual work schedule which would make getting together on the 14th extremely difficult. As a case in point (pardon the pun), doctors may work long shifts during the week which can interfere with Valentine's Day plans. If you or your partner are in this situation, discuss Valentine's Day ahead of time and figure out what will work best for the two of you. You might decide to celebrate few days late or even agree to just exchange cards or gifts for Valentine's Day. Whatever you decide make sure it is a decision which makes you both happy.

If you are planning to celebrate Valentine's Day a day or two late you should still treat your celebration with all of the excitement and enthusiasm you would have on the 14th of February. If your wife or girlfriend would buy a new dress, or get her nails or hair done for Valentine's Day you should encourage her to do it for this occasion as well. It will help to make the celebration feel more fun and exciting.

Remember, there's no reason you have to celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. Observing it a day or so early or late can be just as thoughtful and romantic. Truly, this is one occasion when it's the thought that counts.

Planning a Great Valentines Date

The heart has its reasons that reason knows nothing of.

~ Blaise Pascal

For a lot of guys, Valentine's Day is the one day of the year where we want to have a special date and show our partner how much we love and care for her. Many men have a great deal of trouble planning how to celebrate Valentine's Day. Maybe they feel pressure trying to plan a fabulous or "perfect" date or just don't know how to plan a great date on an ordinary day, and are particularly stressed about such an important occasion. Whichever the case, here are a few ideas for a designing a memorable Valentine's date.

A romantic candlelight dinner is a classic idea. Whether you plan and cook an elaborate meal at home, order in pizza and eat by candlelight or go out to an elegant restaurant with a warm atmosphere, this type of date will be well received. Although it might seem a boring idea because it has been done so often and isn't original, you shouldn't worry about it. A candlelight dinner sets a cozy, romantic mood which suits this day to a "T".

Going out for a night of dancing is another great idea for a Valentine's date. If you and your partner are already good dancers you can simply head out to a local club and dance away the night. Just for kicks, make things more interesting by changing it up a little. If you both enjoy country line dancing try heading to a nightclub featuring salsa music. This will spice up the evening a bit. If you and your date don't have a great deal of experience dancing, try arranging swing or ballroom dancing lessons on Valentine's Day. This will give you an opportunity to learn something together and connect in a new way. You can also start taking lessons a few weeks early, or order an [instructional DVD](#), setting a goal to make Valentine's your "stepping out" day. You can grab a pair of dance shoes at [Dance Savvy](#).

Don't underestimate how much the ladies love to dance. If yours is a dancer, she will appreciate your efforts more than you might think.

Dancing is a fun and healthy activity you can do together for a lifetime.

For a more sedentary evening, rent a few movies sharing a particular theme and relax while watching them and making popcorn at home. You can certainly choose romantic movies to set the mood for Valentine's Day but it isn't mandatory. Choose any theme you know she will enjoy. You might try a few action thrillers or a series of comedies if that is her taste. Regardless, you are sure to relish spending some quality time alone. Hey, if you have to sit through a "chick flick," you survive.

A horse drawn carriage ride is a splendid idea for Valentine's Day. Depending on where you live, you may find horse drawn carriage rides available for special occasions. Whether you choose a ride through the city or out in the countryside, this is a one of a kind Valentine's Day date. This can also be a bit expensive, depending on your budget. To cut down on costs consider topping off the ride with coffee and dessert instead of an expensive dinner.

Symphony concerts, plays and visits to the museum also make great Valentine's Day dates. Cultural outings can be especially nice if you don't normally get to do them together. Spend a leisurely afternoon or evening comparing opinions on art displays or take in a night at the opera. These are only good ideas if they are things you both enjoy but rarely take the time to do. If you don't like them any other day of the year, it's unlikely that you'll enjoy them on Valentine's Day. You'll just be bored or annoyed, or worse. So make sure to pick an activity which will be a real treat for each of you.

For many more date ideas that will cover you well beyond Valentine's Day, check out [300 Creative Dates](#).

Making Dinner Reservations on Valentine's Day

Ah me! love can not be cured by herbs.

~ Ovid

If you're planning to go out to dinner on Valentine's Day, you are probably well aware of how many other couples are planning to do the same. This can make securing dinner reservations difficult.

Restaurants that accept reservations may fill up well before Valentine's Day and those that do not may have long wait times. If you already have reservations for this Valentine's Day, consider yourself lucky. For those less fortunate we've got some tips for locking in dinner reservations for the most romantic day of the year.

The best way to guarantee dinner reservations on Valentine's Day is to make them well in advance. It is highly unlikely you will be able to make them on Valentine's Day for that evening. There is always the possibility of a last minute cancellation, but don't count on it. You don't want to ruin the evening running around from place to place. How far in advance you need to make reservations will depend on the popularity of the restaurant. For top restaurants you may need to make your reservations as early as February 15th of the previous year. For most places a week or two beforehand should be early enough.

If you are serious about going out to dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day but having difficulty making reservations try checking with less popular restaurants. If you live in a big city the restaurants in town might all be booked but you may find availability at the smaller restaurants outside the city limits. You should still make reservations but may not have to make them as early as for the in demand restaurants in the city.

If you know someone who works as a maître d'hotel in a restaurant consider asking them about their reservation policy. They can offer tips on how to make reservations and tell you which times are likely to be the least crowded. They may even be able to do you a favor by

squeezing you into an already packed Valentine's Day schedule. You may not be rich or famous but knowing someone who can help you out of a jam with last minute reservations is a start.

When making dinner reservations for Valentine's Day, consider making them for an earlier or later time than usual. This may mean you are sitting down to enjoy your meal at a time which is not ideal but at least you stand a better chance of making reservations as late as Valentine's Day. There should be fewer people having dinner at these off times. This usually translates to better service as well as a less stressful dining experience. If you know there are crowds waiting you may feel pressured to rush your meal because you feel guilty. Taking advantage of early or late seatings will let you avoid the guilt and increase your chances of having a good time.

Call to confirm your reservations, especially if you made them months in advance. Things happen, and they can be lost. Better to know ahead of time than show up and look like a heel. By all means, get there a little bit early, even if you think there will be a long wait. That long wait gives the maître d'hotel every reason to cross you off the list if you don't answer the call.

If you happen to be traveling in a different country, keep in mind that they may handle reservations differently. On a trip to Munich we were unable to make reservations anywhere, and just happened to stop by one of the best restaurants to see if there were any cancellations. It was around six in the evening, and we were surprised to see the restaurant half empty. We asked if we could get a table, and were told that as long as we agreed to leave by 9pm we could be seated. Because Bavarians like to linger over their meals, the restaurants there don't try to push several parties through in an evening.

Something's Cooking ...

If music be the food of love, play on.
~ Shakespeare

Here's a suggestion - avoid the restaurant hassles on Valentine's Day and try cooking dinner at home. We'll cover some basic tips for treating your spouse or date to a home cooked meal and provide some ideas for making the experience more unique.

The most important tip we can offer for guys planning to cook dinner on Valentine's Day is to keep it simple. This isn't to say you have to serve something boring. It just means you should plan on cooking a meal which is not overly complicated or difficult to make. If you try something too complex you may spend all your time in the kitchen working on it and not have enough time to enjoy the results with your loved one.

Make sure the meal you select is one your partner will enjoy. When choosing the menu, consider her personal preferences as well as any allergies or dietary restrictions. This will ensure you are preparing a meal which both of you can enjoy. A steak dinner may seem romantic but if your partner is a vegetarian she may not appreciate it. Of course, that's going to the absurd to make the point, but you get the idea. Valentine's Day is not the day to surprise her with an exotic meal only to find out about her seafood allergy!

Buy all the ingredients ahead of time. This will keep you from scrambling at the last minute to locate any hard to find ingredients. It will also reduce stress if you're unable to find some of the key ingredients and have to make substitutions. Plus, if you plan ahead and buy all the ingredients a day or two in advance, you do not have to worry about rushing around on Valentine's Day and can have things prepped and ready to go.

It's a good idea to go with a meal that you have prepared before or are confident you can make. You can always consult with your

mother or sister or a friend who is a good cook if you are not too handy in the kitchen. Spaghetti is an easy meal to make, for example.

Invite your partner to help you prepare the meal. This is a fun way to cook up some quality time together. If you are planning an elaborate meal, you both can work together to make sure everything turns out great. Even if you are planning a simple meal, you can enjoy the time spent together and will find the evening more memorable. This is more appropriate for a date you don't see every day. If your wife does most of the cooking, give her a day off and handle it on your own.

One way to make cooking dinner together more like a date is to take a cooking class on Valentine's Day. Take a class together and try a new style of cooking. You will both learn something and spend some time together making the meal. Afterwards, you can bring your new dish home to share. Enjoying the fruits of your labor will be a great way to top off the evening. This is a perfect for couples on a first date because it can be a real ice breaker. During the class you will be working together following the instructions. Afterwards you will have a great deal to discuss. You can share thoughts on the class or stories about the trials and tribulations of your culinary adventure.

Unique Dinner Resources

[Asian Food Grocer](#)

Order Asian foods and cooking supplies online.

[My Secret Pantry](#)

Unique Spices, Rubs, and Kitchen Items

[Gluten Free](#)

Online source of gluten-free food.

[Fossil Farms](#)

Organic, exotic meats and game - delivered right to your door.

[Indian Blend](#)

Online Indian grocery store.

[Soups and More](#)

Soups, sauces, seasonings.

[Food Classics](#)

Free recipes

[Wilson & Wilson Premium Steaks](#)

Certified Angus beef aged a minimum of 21 days.

[All Fresh Seafood](#)

Fresh seafood and fish from dock to door.

[Recipe Secrets](#)

Secret recipes from your favorite restaurants.

[Artiko Chef](#)

Prepared meals, appetizers and more...delivered nationwide to your home.

[Gourmet Station](#)

Experience the cuisine of a fine French restaurant without leaving home.

[The Lox Box](#)

Make your own lox – just like having a New York Deli.

Late for a Very Important Date?

Better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all.
~ St. Augustine

If you are looking for a date for Valentine's Day, rest assured you are not alone. People around the world love celebrating Valentine's Day with someone they care about. For guys who are in committed relationships, this is usually pretty easy. For those who are single or casually dating, finding a date for Valentine's Day can be a difficult task. Let's look at a few different scenarios and offer advice for finding a date for each situation.

Oddly enough, couples who have only been dating for a short time may have difficulty setting up a date for Valentine's Day. This is because one may not yet feel secure enough in the relationship to know whether or not the other will want to celebrate the day with them. This can be a turning point in a relationship as the couple tries to determine how they feel about each other and whether or not they want to spend Valentine's Day together. A guy in this "gray area" type of relationship should carefully evaluate the situation and determine what he is looking for in the relationship before bringing up the subject with the lady. This helps to ensure you aren't simply getting caught up in the spirit of the holiday and that you really care about her.

If you have only been dating for a short time but feel strongly about going on a date with her on Valentine's Day, go ahead and ask her out. The worst that can happen is she says no. While this may ruin your plans for the big day, it will give you a better understanding of where your relationship stands.

Guys who are completely unattached may have the most trouble finding a date for Valentine's Day. You may be single but secretly pining for someone you would love to spend Valentine's Day with. In this case, just go ahead and ask her out. If she says yes, you may

have a great time and start a new relationship. If she says no, you haven't really lost anything. You didn't have plans anyway and can still get together with friends. Besides, most girls appreciate being asked out by a decent guy, even if they don't accept. If she doesn't take it as a compliment, you're probably better off without her.

You can improve your chances of getting that date by being creative and romantic, so check out [300 Creative Dates](#) for some more ideas.

Many people are trying on line dating sites. [Singles Net](#) provides compatibility matching, which can help you sort through the available dates more quickly. It may seem awkward at first, but is often safer and easier than chance encounters in nightclubs or singles groups.

Listen, if you are alone on Valentine's Day, that does not mean you will always be alone. One of the biggest mistakes singles make on Valentine's Day is spending too much time dwelling on it. It is very important to remember that being alone on Valentine's Day is not the end of the world. It is after all, just another day. It didn't end too well for St. Valentine, so look at the bright side!

If You Can't Be With the One You Love...

*I need the starshine of your heavenly eyes,
after the day's great sun.*

~ Charles Hanson Towne

There are a number of reasons why a couple may find themselves spending Valentine's Day apart. A long distance relationship, business trip, work shift, sickness or family emergency are just a few examples. Just because these situations are legitimate reasons for being separated from your sweetheart on Valentine's Day doesn't make it any easier to deal with.

Whether you are in a committed relationship and your partner is far away, or you just don't have a date, spending Valentine's Day alone can be very sad for some people. Women especially can dwell on the fact that they are alone this day. The desire for companionship is part of being human, and most men who spend this day alone will be troubled by it as well. Cheer up! Spending Valentine's Day apart doesn't have to be a sad experience.

Are you in a long distance relationship? You may be used to spending anniversaries and other holidays apart so it won't be as difficult. There are ways you can still celebrate Valentine's Day together. One is to each rent the same movie and watch it while on the phone together. This may run up your phone bill but you can save money with a cheap phone card from [Phone Card Depot](#) or use a service like [Skype](#) which allows you to call from your computer to a telephone for a very low price, or to another computer for free. You and your beloved can chat away while you watch the movie together. Hey, why not order the same type of food, such as pizza or Chinese? That way you will feel even more in touch. Send a gift from [My Favorite City](#), which features local items from most major cities and all 50 states.

Will you be spending Valentine's Day apart due to an unexpected business trip? This can be particularly difficult because you may not be used to being separated on important days and likely did not have

a great deal of time to prepare for it. In this situation you should discuss Valentine's Day as soon as you find out you are going to be spending the holiday apart. Decide whether you want to celebrate before you part or after you are reunited. (Or maybe both!) Try to at least have some contact on Valentine's Day even if it's over the phone or through email. This will allow you to feel like you are together in some way so you don't get too lonely. Having flowers delivered to your loved one while you are away is a thoughtful gesture. [Flora2000](#) can send flowers and gifts all over the world. [Gifts by Delivery](#) can deliver gift baskets, wine baskets, and flowers in the US and Canada.

Lastly, let's look at some solutions when your separation involves odd work shifts. This could cover many occupations: doctors, firefighters, police officers, linemen, factory workers, etc. You are probably used to the odd schedule and having to make time to be together outside of working hours. In this case the best way to deal with being apart on Valentine's Day is to plan on celebrating together when it is more convenient. This may not seem like the most romantic option but sometimes it is the most sensible. You want to celebrate when you are feeling good and can make the most of your time together. Being tired or half asleep is no way to do that. It's important to remember that you love your partner every day of the year and you don't have to be together on a particular day to prove your love for each other.

If you have to work a swing shift or know you may be kept late on the job, just leaving a little card or note for your beloved is a thoughtful Valentine's treat. Leave a card or small box of chocolates somewhere she is sure to find them while you are away. Try leaving more than one for her to discover throughout the day!

Plan for a Wonderful Day Together

*Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other
but in looking outward together in the same direction.*

~ Saint-Exupery

For millions of people, Valentine's Day is the most romantic day of the year. They find this day is as special as their personal anniversaries or holidays they celebrate throughout the year. They want to plan a special and romantic Valentine's Day to enjoy with their beloved. Here are some useful tips for those who will be spending Valentine's Day with someone special and are looking for ideas on how to plan a memorable day.

First of all consider planning your Valentine's Day celebration along with your partner. Surprises are great and your beloved may appreciate your thoughtfulness but one way to ensure she is thrilled is to involve her in the process. Planning a special Valentine's Day together gives you the opportunity to enjoy even more time with each other as you find a way to celebrate which you will both enjoy.

Put time and effort into the planning. It can be nearly impossible to pull off a spectacular Valentine's Day at the last minute because you are likely to encounter a series of mishaps. Remember that Murphy can show up well before St. Patrick's Day. Call and make all necessary reservations well in advance. If you put a great deal of time into planning your celebration, your partner is bound to notice. On the other hand, if you try making plans at the last minute, she is sure to notice as well and may feel disappointed that you didn't find her worth the effort. She also wants you to really be with her, not focused on making your plan come together.

The Best Laid Plans...

The course of true love never did run smooth.

~ William Shakespeare

Each year men spend a great deal of time and energy planning Valentine's Day surprises for their ladies. Unfortunately, a lot of these plans are ruined due to circumstances beyond their control. They may find that all of their advance planning has gone to waste but Valentine's Day will still turn out fine because they are spending the day with the one they love. Just so you are prepared, we will provide some information on how you can not only plan a great Valentine's Day surprise but also have a backup plan in case you get surprised unexpectedly.

Outdoor activities can be ruined easily because of the weather. Rain, snow, or incredibly cold weather can put a damper on your Valentine's Day plan to have a romantic walk in the park. The simple solution is to move your activities indoors if the weather becomes foul. This is easy to do and requires just a little advance planning. The easiest thing is to use your own house or apartment as the backup location. The only advance planning involved is straightening up beforehand to create a cozy environment. If you have a roommate make sure he is out for the evening so you and your date can be alone. You can add ambiance by purchasing CDs with [nature sounds](#) or soft music.

Taking your date to a nice restaurant on Valentine's Day can backfire. Even if you make reservations well in advance there can be complications. The restaurant may lose your reservations, be too busy to honor them, or just be too crowded for a relaxing experience. You can have a plan B in place by being prepared to go home and cook if the restaurant plans go awry. Prepare by buying a few simple and versatile ingredients that can be used to whip up a tasty meal at a moments notice. The ingredients won't go to waste because you can always use them later in the week.

Get tickets to a play or concert for your date on Valentine's Day. This

is a great gift if it's something you both enjoy. You can wind up needing a plan B if the event is canceled for some reason. If you are planning to go to a play and it is canceled you can invite your date home to watch a movie version of the play. In the case of a canceled concert, create a CD of your favorite songs by the artist you were going to see.

If you are planning to see a popular event that may sell out, try a ticket broker such as [ABC Tickets](#) to get better seats.

Avoiding Gift Anxiety

*How can a woman be expected to be happy with
a man who insists on treating her as if she
were a perfectly normal human being.*

~ Oscar Wilde

One complaint a lot of guys have is that they just don't understand what women expect from them on Valentine's Day. This can make planning for Valentine's Day a stressful experience. They are worried that the gift they buy will say the wrong thing or that their gift will be misinterpreted by their girlfriend or wife. As a result they wind up doing too much or too little and have trouble finding that happy medium where their gift will be appreciated without their partner reading too much into it. The key to striking this balance is to understand women and how they think of Valentine's Day.

The most important thing to remember is that when women say it is okay for you to not do anything for Valentine's Day, 99.99% of the time they do not mean it. It is true there are some women who really do not expect anything from their boyfriends or husbands on Valentine's Day, but they are, to put it mildly, few and far between. The vast majority of women will be extremely disappointed (again, putting it mildly!) if you allow Valentine's Day to pass without even a card or a small gift. So unless you are absolutely sure your partner is one of those rare women who really does not care about Valentine's Day, be sure to get a card or a flower for her at a minimum.

Now you may be wondering what type of card you should get. There are lots of humorous cards available but unless you are certain she will like it, go with a romantic card. You can find cards which express all sorts of sentiments and should be able to find one that matches your feelings perfectly. You may not realize that women typically put a great deal of time and effort into selecting your card and may be disappointed if you do not do the same for them. We'll cover cards in more detail below.

Women do not want to be reminded of their diets on Valentine's Day! Your girlfriend or wife may talk about wanting to lose weight and trying to exercise and eat right but this does not mean she wants you to buy her sugar free candy or give her workout equipment for Valentine's Day. You may think you are doing something thoughtful, but trust us on this one, she will think you are calling her fat, and you will likely not get anything sweet yourself on Valentines Day, if you know what we mean. If you want to support your partner in her diet efforts, give her a small box of chocolates and a piece of jewelry instead. A box of diet cookies and a workout video won't be well received. Unless you want to spend the next few weeks sleeping on the couch, forget the gifts that say "you're fat!"

Remember that it really is the thought that counts. Women want to feel special on Valentine's Day. Extravagant gifts may seem like a good idea and may be appreciated, but most women just want to know that you love them. So whether you give her expensive jewelry or cook her a special dinner, let her know how much you care about her.

Choosing A Special Gift for Your Wife

I have great hopes that we shall love each other all our lives as much as if we had never married at all.

~ Lord Byron

If you have been married for awhile you may have difficulty selecting gifts for your wife. If you have spent many Valentine's Days together and bought her all of the standard gifts you may have trouble thinking up new and original gift ideas. You've bought flowers, candy, lingerie and jewelry and may think repeating these gifts would not be appropriate. Don't worry, there are a lot of great gift ideas for Valentine's Day. We will focus on how you can update some of the traditional gift ideas and provide some unique options.

Candy is almost always appreciated on Valentine's Day. There are several ways to make candy seem like a more original gift. If you normally give your wife an assortment of chocolates in a heart shaped box then search for other options. Try chocolate covered strawberries or cherries. You can make a gift of candy truly original by making it yourself. Making candy is not difficult and can be a great deal of fun. While a woman will always appreciate a gift of candy, she will be pleasantly surprised if you make the candy yourself. [Candy Making For Dummies](#) is a good guide.

Jewelry is another popular gift on Valentine's Day. If you previously gave your wife a solitaire ring consider giving her a new ring with three stones to reflect the past, present and your future together. Maybe have the solitaire ring modified to include the additional stones. Add a unique twist by giving jewelry with different stones or metals. When selecting jewelry take care to choose items that reflect her taste so you're sure she will enjoy the piece and want to wear it often.

If you have children an excellent gift idea is to present her with handmade coupons for a few free afternoons. You will take care of the kids so your wife can go out and relax and enjoy some time to herself.

Women often feel guilty about leaving the children with their husbands to take time for themselves. These coupons will make her more likely to get a cup of coffee with a friend or do some shopping. Because you will be volunteering to watch the kids, your wife will not feel like she is inconveniencing you. You can make this even more special by giving her a gift certificate to a beauty salon so she can go get her hair done or have a manicure and pedicure. Plan a special activity for the kids while she is gone. For example, you might have them make a gift for their mom. She will get some free time and a nice homemade surprise when she returns.

Gift Ideas for Your Wife

[Gourmet Cookie Bouquets](#)

Cookie gift bouquets & gourmet design cookies.

[Rio Gems](#)

Hand selected gemstones from all over the world.

[Mermaid Pearls](#)

Exotic pearl jewelry.

[Bohemia Style](#)

Authentic organic cosmetics, handcrafted wool garments, home decor and artisan works.

[Religious Jewelry](#)

Religious themed jewelry.

[Paint Your Life](#)

Custom paintings from photos.

[Wedding Vow Rings](#)

Rings inscribed with wedding vows, Bible verses, and more.

[The Wisconsin Cheeseman](#)

Cheeses, candy, gift baskets, cakes and cookies, etc.

[Overstock Jewelry](#)

Discounted jewelry

[Miaarte Fashion Jewelry](#)

Custom jewelry.

Choosing an Appropriate Gift for Your Girlfriend

Love seeketh not itself to please, nor for itself hath any care, but for another gives its ease, and builds a Heaven in Hell's despair.

~ William Blake

Many guys stress out about shopping for a Valentine's Day gift for their girlfriends. They worry that the gift they give will be too romantic or not romantic enough for the stage of the relationship. If they have just started dating an expensive gift may be inappropriate but they do not want to give a gift which will leave the impression that they are not serious about the relationship. All of this self doubt can make buying the right gift a difficult task. Here are some tips if you are struggling to select a suitable gift for your girlfriend.

When trying to decide on a gift, first carefully consider where you are in the relationship. If you have been dating for awhile and are confident you are strongly committed to each other, consider more expensive and extravagant gifts. If you have only been dating for a short time and aren't sure where the relationship is going, stick with simpler gifts. While it is important to carefully evaluate your relationship, remember that you run the risk of interpreting it differently than she does. You may feel things are going well and the two of you are strongly committed but she may feel the relationship is too new to be thinking about the future or vice versa. This can create an awkward situation. Have a conversation with her about your status before shopping for Valentine's Day. This will help to assure you are on the same page. A super resource is [1000 Questions for Couples](#)

Flowers are a safe bet. Flowers are so commonly associated with Valentine's Day that she is not likely to misinterpret your gift. A dozen red roses is a romantic gift but not one she is likely to read too much into. There are some mistakes a you can make when giving flowers on Valentine's Day. Your girlfriend may be hurt or disappointed by a gift of yellow roses because they symbolize friendship and not romantic love. She may feel as though you do not take the relationship seriously and don't think there is much of a romantic future for the

two of you. The one exception to this is if she particularly likes yellow roses or prefers them over red ones.

Jewelry is appropriate as long as the cost and style of the piece is commensurate with the stage of your relationship. An expensive diamond ring is not proper if you have only been dating for a short time. Even in a long term relationship, a diamond ring is a bad idea if she assumes the ring is an engagement ring and you meant something less. As a general rule when giving jewelry limit it to less expensive items in a new relationship. Save the more extravagant items for a strong relationship where you see a definite future.

An excellent option when choosing jewelry is to pick something exotic or from a different part of the world, such as lapis jewelry from Chile, or American Indian jewelry. This way you can give her a unique gift, but one that doesn't send the wrong message like a traditional piece can.

Gift Ideas for Your Girlfriend

[Hawaiian Jewelry and Gift Collection](#)

Unique jewelry and gifts from Hawaii.

[Scented Monkey](#)

Perfumes and fragrances.

[Jewels of Denial](#)

Fun and fashionable jewelry.

[All Things Trendy](#)

Fashion Handbags at a discount.

[Arizona Indian Jewelry](#)

Authentic handcrafted jewelry and gifts from the American Southwest.

[Lapis Lazuli World](#)

Handcrafted Sterling Silver and 18K gold lapis jewelry and accessories.

[The Cookie Garden](#)

Giant gourmet cookies and cookie bouquets.

[Tea Pot Mart](#)

Unique teapots, tea sets, cups and accessories.

[Boca Java Coffee Club](#)

Great coffees delivered each month.

[Salsa Express](#)

Salsa, gourmet foods, gift packs

Romantic Valentine's Day Gifts

Love is the only gold.
~ Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Most of us agree that Valentine's Day is the most romantic day of the year. So what better way to celebrate this truly magical day than by giving your lady a gift that is incredibly romantic. Sounds easy, but many guys have trouble selecting a romantic gift on Valentine's Day. If you want to surprise her with a truly romantic gift but aren't sure how we'll provide some useful hints.

A romantic gift does not have to be complicated. A simple candlelight dinner is one of the most romantic treats on Valentine's Day. You can make dinner yourself or order in from a favorite restaurant. Many high end grocery stores offer tasty pre-cooked meals as well. What you are eating is not nearly as important as the mood you set. Whether you have pizza or fillet mignon your dinner can be romantic if you adorn the table with elegant place settings, light a few candles and play some soft music in the background. Each of these small touches will help to make the evening romantic and memorable.

An over the top gift like a hot air balloon ride can be a very romantic Valentine's Day gift if you live in a warm weather climate. This type of gift is not only original but is quite romantic. You and your partner will not be alone in the hot air balloon because you need a pilot to guide it and ensure a smooth flight. Once up in the air you will be in awe of the breathtaking sights. A hot air balloon ride is something most people will never experience, so it is a gift she will always cherish (assuming a smooth landing, that is).

How about a gift certificate for massage lessons? Make an appointment to take a lesson or two on how to give massages. You will learn a few great techniques. Many guys think of giving a gift certificate for a massage but haven't thought of giving one for massage lessons. Lessons can be a far more romantic (and long lasting) – and no one complains about the homework.

Visiting an art exhibit is a great way to spend time together, as you can stroll through the museum hand in hand discussing each work. Beautiful works of art can expand your imagination and provide some great conversation starters. You will remember the day often when you pass the museum or see a lovely painting.

Romantic Gift Ideas

[Timeless Message in a Bottle](#)

voted Most Romantic Gift on the web. Choose from over 350 messages or write your own.

[Pictures on Gold](#)

Photo Pendants and Picture Charms

[Diva Diamonds](#)

Exclusive online showcase of jewelry features items not found in stores.

[Holiday Gifts and Baskets](#)

Unique Valentines Gift Baskets and Basket Gifts.

[Givens & Company](#)

Gourmet Food Gifts, Wine and Champaign Baskets, Chocolates

[Parfum Parfum](#)

Perfumes of all types

[Cellars Wine Club](#)

Choose from 8 different Wine Clubs

Flowers for Valentines

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

~ William Shakespeare

Flowers are undoubtedly the most popular gift for Valentine's Day. In fact, they are so popular that many men typically give flowers along with other gifts. Don't make the mistake of thinking red roses are the only flowers you can give your wife or girlfriend on this occasion. This is simply not true. There are many other flowers which are appropriate, and a number of different ways to give flower related gifts. We will provide some useful information on how to give flowers on Valentine's Day.

Roses can be very expensive around February 14th, but they are not the only flowers you can give on this special day. Any type of flower she really likes and appreciates is appropriate. In fact, your partner may be touched that you knew her well enough to pick out a special type of flower you thought she would like. This shows you put thought into choosing her flowers as opposed to just buying red roses which may cost more but do not require as much effort.

Another way to give the gift of flowers is in the form of potted plants. These last longer than fresh cut flowers so your beloved will enjoy them for months or years to come. You will have the option of choosing from a large variety of plants. If you know what type she likes, selecting one will be easy. If you are not sure, pick one you think she will find aesthetically appealing. One caveat; choose a plant which is relatively easy to care for so she will not have to spend a lot of time dealing with it.

Consider giving artificial flowers on Valentine's Day. This may not seem overly romantic but artificial flowers can look lifelike and some women may prefer artificial flowers to real ones. Artificial flowers require minimal maintenance and no special abilities to nurture. Unlike potted plants which can be difficult to maintain and may die as a result of too much or not enough water, or sunlight, or any number

of factors, artificial plants only need to be cleaned and dusted regularly to maintain their appearance.

You can give the gift of flowers in the form of seeds or bulbs that can be planted in the backyard. This can be a great deal of fun because it's something you can do together. This is especially nice if your partner has an interest in gardening. Even if she does not, you can include a few books on the subject and a homemade coupon offering your services for an afternoon of work in the yard. This will allow the two of you to spend some quality time together planting the flowers. Just make sure when buying bulbs that you take into account the growing season where you live.

If you live where the weather will be cold for a few months, consider the [AeroGarden](#). This unique indoor garden automates the entire growing process resulting in beautiful plants year round.

Flower Gift Ideas

[de la Flowers](#)

Beautiful flower arrangements, and gift baskets for all occasions.

[Nature Hills Nursery](#)

Online nursery features all types of live plants and bulbs.

[Neo Flowers](#)

Roses and other flower bouquets.

[Amazon Foliages](#)

Silk flower and arrangements, artificial trees.

[Good Bulbs](#)

Tulip bulbs and other flower bulbs.

[Roses Free](#)

2 Dozen roses free with every order.

[AeroGarden](#)

Automated indoor growing garden for herbs and flowers.

[Beyond Blossoms](#)

Unique flowers and arrangements.

Unique Valentine's Day Gifts

*The best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts,
Of kindness and of love.*

~ William Wordsworth

Gifts such as flowers, candy, lingerie, and jewelry are pretty common on Valentine's Day. In fact, they are so common that many who have been with the same partner for several years may be worried that their lover is growing bored with these typical gifts. Fortunately, there are other options for gift ideas on Valentine's Day. It's important to remember that Valentine's Day gifts can be anything you choose. You can give the same types of gifts you would give your partner for Christmas or a birthday. Just because it is Valentine's Day does not mean you have to limit your imagination. Whether you are running out of ideas for February 14th, or simply looking for gift ideas that are truly unique, we will provide some useful tips.

Dinner and a movie is one of the most common date ideas for any night of the year and is particularly popular on Valentine's Day. However, there is a way to update the concept of having some form of entertainment combined with sharing a meal together. One way to do this is to rent out a museum after hours. You and your date can spend the evening wandering through the museum and enjoying the exhibits. You can also bring along a picnic dinner to enjoy there. This unique evening will be pretty expensive, but it's one your date will never forget.

Another unusual gift idea is to surprise your date with a trip to a sporting event. However, this will only be appreciated if she is a fan of the sport or the team you are going to see. This is different because most people assume it is something inappropriate because it is not "romantic." If you know your partner will enjoy it, then she'll find it plenty romantic! And that's what giving a unique Valentine's gift is all about - finding something your partner will enjoy.

Another novel gift is a scrapbook showing the history of your relationship together. You can take photos of the two of you from throughout the life together and arrange them according to themes or in chronological order. You can decorate each page with other photos, stickers, ribbons or news clippings dated from the time of each entry. This is a unique gift which will really surprise your partner. It is also a Valentine's Day gift to be cherished for years to come.

Finally, if you are looking for a truly unique Valentine's Day gift idea, why not consider simply asking your partner what she really wants? It may not be the most romantic thing to do because it will ruin the element of surprise, but it will ensure you are giving her something she is pleased with. Be sure to let your partner know she is free to select any gift she would like and doesn't have to choose something traditionally associated with Valentine's Day. This way she will feel free to be honest about what she would like for a gift.

Unique Gift Ideas

[Design It Yourself Gift Baskets](#)

Create your own unique gift basket.

[Rainforest Forever](#)

Own a tree in the Amazon rainforest.

[A Gift Personalized](#)

Personalized gifts for Valentine's Day.

[Jigsaw 2 Order](#)

Custom made jigsaw puzzles from your pictures.

[Espresso Zone](#)

Gourmet Italian coffee and espresso items from around the world.

[The Fruit Company](#)

Fruit baskets and gourmet foods for special occasions.

[Any Knockoff](#)

Imitation designer and celebrity handbags and accessories.

[Lauren Hutton Makeup](#)

Makeup designed for women over forty.

[Bromwell Housewares](#)

Vintage popcorn poppers and American made housewares.

Inexpensive Gifts

*May no gift be too small to give,
nor too simple to receive,
which is wrapped in thoughtfulness
and tied with love.*

~ L.O. Baird

Just because roses are significantly more expensive on February 14th than they are at any other time of the year doesn't mean that a Valentine's Day gift has to be expensive. You can find inexpensive gifts that your beloved will appreciate. This chapter will provide a few tips for finding inexpensive gifts which are meaningful, and some tips for how traditional, expensive Valentine's Day gifts can be modified to make them more affordable.

Consider the roses we previously mentioned. Buying your loved one a dozen roses on Valentine's Day can be pricey. There are other ways to give flowers without emptying your bank account. One way is to give a single red rose. This is a dramatic gift which is also economical. Consider flowers which are less popular on Valentine's Day. These "wall" flowers are likely to be much less expensive than red roses. Any type of flower your partner enjoys will be well received.

A long lasting yet inexpensive gift is an elegant journal. You can find journals in a variety of sizes, shapes and styles anywhere books are sold. Many journals come with a picture or a quote on the front so take care to find one that will be meaningful her. You can opt for a journal without a picture or a quote but make sure the style is visually appealing. Since a journal is essentially a book filled with empty pages, your partner is more likely to fill the pages if she finds the journal attractive. On the first page of the journal write a heartfelt note letting her know why you selected this particular gift and encouraging her to use it to record special thoughts and feelings.

[Jenni Bick Bookbinding](#) is a source of beautiful handmade leather journals.

Specialty teas like [*Mellow Monk's*](#) or coffees like [*Boca Java*](#) make nice gifts. They are small luxuries, yet are especially nice during the cold winter months. You can take pictures of the two of you and [Design a Mosaic](#).

The best gift you can give your beloved is your time and attention, so don't stress if your budget is tight. Go for a drive to see the city lights or visit a free exhibit or community play or concert. Find something she enjoys and add a little touch of imagination to make it an unforgettable evening.

Homemade Valentines Gifts

*Love is a canvas furnished by Nature
and embroidered by imagination.*

~ Voltaire

Stores and florists spend a great deal of time, money and effort promoting their wares as perfect for Valentine's Day. This is done for good reason as most people buy commercially available products on Valentine's Day. If your pockets are empty, with a little effort you may find you can give your partner a gift which comes straight from your heart. Consider a homemade gift. Despite what you may think, it doesn't take a great deal of time or talent to make a gift. We'll pass along a few ideas for homemade gifts you can give to your loved one on Valentine's Day.

A scrapbook is one of the most popular homemade gifts for this occasion. It is one of the easiest to make and most likely to be cherished by her. That's a combination that's hard to beat! To make a scrapbook, start by finding the pictures you want to use. Select pictures of each of you individually, pictures of the two of you together, pictures of places the two of you have visited together or any combination of the above. Put in whatever pictures you think will give her the most pleasure. It's entirely up to you. Once you select a series of pictures you like a theme for the scrapbook should come to mind. Once this theme emerges you can search for the appropriate scrapbook, as well as any accessories such as stickers, ribbons or other graphics. Assembling the scrapbook is as easy as gluing the pictures and accessories to the pages and placing everything together in an order which makes sense. [Lasting Expressions](#) offers thousands of titles, phrases and ideas for designing a scrapbook. [Scrapbook.com](#) and [Scrapbook Pal](#) offer supplies for making scrapbooks.

Homemade candles are another great Valentine's gift. Making candles is really quite simple. You can find kits which will not only have everything you need but also provide simple step by step instructions

on how to melt the wax, insert the wick, pour the candle and allow the candle to set before releasing it from the mold. You can add dyes and perfumes to create a candle with a special color and scent. Visit [Discount Candle](#) to find everything you will need.

A modern idea for a homemade Valentine's Day gift is a CD filled with her favorite music or a DVD with pictures or videos of the two of you together. You can even combine the videos with movie clips or music which you think fits well with them. This may sound hard but it really isn't. With the technological advancements being made, many of us would be surprised to learn that we can do a lot of these things on our own computers at home, quickly and easily. However, if you are having a great deal of trouble, consult a friend or family member for advice on how to do this. Most junior high kids are experts at this.

Choosing a Valentine's Card

*Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates love.*

~ Lao Tzu

Believe it or not, picking out a card can be the part of Valentine's Day that many guys find the most difficult. They worry that the card they select does not properly express their feelings or that their partner will not understand the card or find it inappropriate. All of these concerns can make choosing a card for Valentine's Day a difficult and stressful task. Don't worry, we will provide some useful tips for picking out a card which your partner is sure to enjoy.

Valentine's Day cards can be romantic, humorous or filled with heartfelt emotion. Whichever theme you select, it is important to make sure it is one your partner will appreciate.

When most people think about Valentine's Day, they think of romantic cards filled with words of love. This type of card is ideal if you want to use Valentine's Day as an opportunity to express your love for her. You may tell her every day of the year, but Valentine's Day is a the day to give a card which expresses these feelings of love in writing.

If you are planning to give your lady a romantic card on Valentine's Day, you have a few options. You can search through card stores or on line for the card which best expresses your sentiments. If you want to give your lover a romantic card for Valentine's Day you can purchase a blank card and write your own heartfelt sentiments inside. This is one way to ensure the card you give to your partner says exactly what you mean. Cards available commercially may come close but not exactly express what you feel. Writing your own message is best. Include a short poem if there is one you find suitable.

Humorous cards are popular as well. They can be perfect for a fun loving girl who doesn't take Valentine's Day so seriously. Humorous

cards can still express loving emotion but in a way that is witty and lighthearted. If your partner has a good sense of humor, this route is the way to go.

There are some concerns with humorous cards for Valentine's Day. If you plan to give your loved one a funny card, make sure she will not interpret it to mean you are not serious about your relationship. This can happen when she gives you a very romantic card and you give her a humorous one in return. Although you may not mean anything negative by it, she may interpret it this way. One way to offset this reaction is to purchase a humorous card but include a handwritten note expressing a romantic and loving sentiment inside it. This way she can laugh along with you and appreciate the humor in the card but get your true feelings and not be offended by the card. An even better, though slightly more expensive option, is to buy both a funny card and a romantic one, if you find a hilarious card you're dying to give but are worried about how she will take it.

Valentine's Card Ideas

[Card Fountain](#)

Send a Valentine's card from your computer.

[1000 Cards Online](#)

Send free electronic Valentine's cards.

[Big Dates](#)

Special event reminder service and free e-cards..

[Really True Cards](#)

Create a custom Valentine's card on line.

Traveling for Valentine's Day

Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be.

- Robert Browning

Whisking your partner away on a surprise, two week long exotic vacation may seem like a romantic idea for a Valentine's Day gift but it does not always work out that way. In theory, a surprise vacation is incredibly romantic but in reality it is filled with complications which can put a damper on things. You can plan a trip for Valentine's Day and have it turn out to be one your partner will remember forever. Here are some thoughts on how to plan that trip without running into snags.

A Valentine's Day trip will be most workable if you pay careful attention to the timing of the trip. These days work and family obligations can make it difficult for one person to plan even a short getaway without some input from their partner. This is especially true if you are planning a trip longer than a weekend. This longer trip may require you and your spouse to take time off of work or to make arrangements for someone to take care of the kids or pets and watch the house. Other family obligations can have an impact on the planning. For example, if your partner routinely picks up her niece from school and watches her for a couple of hours, she will need to find a substitute to handle this family obligation.

Scheduling conflicts can be avoided by simply making your partner aware of the plans and soliciting feedback on the proposed dates of the trip. You don't have to give away the whole surprise by telling her where you will be going but letting her know the dates of travel will help to avoid the problems mentioned above.

Another thing to consider is whether or not you want to actually be traveling on Valentine's Day. This becomes critical if you are planning a trip to a faraway destination. In this case plan to leave before or after the 14th so you can spend the holiday relaxing together. Travel is stressful and tiring so plan your trip so you will not be traveling on

Valentine's Day itself.

When planning a trip for Valentine's Day select a location which both you of you will appreciate. There are activities you enjoy as well as those she enjoys and some will not overlap. You'll want to pick a destination which offers plenty of things for the two of you to enjoy together. You may be looking forward to a golfing vacation but if she does not play golf it will result in the two of you spending the time apart.

Another option, which is probably best for most couples, is to plan the vacation getaway for later in the year when it will fit your schedule, and the weather will be better. You can still "give" the gift on Valentine's Day, and make it a surprise, but can plan the trip with your lover's input, getting all the benefits of having her involved while still being the hero. You can order brochures or a promotional DVD to watch together on Valentine's Day as the kickoff to your planning session.

A good resource for saving money on your travel plans is [.Fired Travel Agent](#)

Where Would We Be Without Friends?

*All love that has not friendship for its base,
is like a mansion built upon the sand.*

~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Valentine's Day is traditionally a day for lovers to celebrate their devotion to each other. But not everyone is in a relationship when Valentine's Day rolls around. Just because you don't have a significant other come February 14 does not mean you can't have a good time. Spending the day with friends can be a rewarding experience. You and your pals can do all sorts of things to keep from feeling left out on this holiday.

Going out to the movies can be a good way for friends to spend Valentine's Day. Going to movies is not one of the more popular activities on Valentine's Day so you will likely not have to worry about long lines or shows being sold out. If couples do choose to go to the movies, they are likely to flock to romantic movies so you and your friends can avoid the crowds by choosing a comedy or an action flick you've been wanting to see.

Another fun way to spend Valentine's Day with some friends is to get dressed up and go bowling. Bowling can be a lot of fun and it is not normally an activity couples favor for Valentine's Day. Try getting dressed up in your tux or old prom suit and head to the local bowling alley. You will not only have a lot of fun but you will make the night seem more special. Try dressing for a specific time frame such as the 50's or the 80's or even the 70's if you can put your hands on one of those lime green leisure suits.

Do something for someone else to take your mind off of Valentine's Day altogether. Try volunteering to serve dinner at a homeless shelter that night. Holidays can be difficult times at shelters because there may be fewer volunteers than usual. While there are some who make an effort to volunteer on days such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, many people tend to overlook volunteer opportunities on

Valentine's Day because they are focused on enjoying a special evening with their loved one. You and a friend can spend the evening dishing out dinner to those in need.

Among the most overlooked ways to volunteer is to assist someone who is caring for an aged or infirmed loved one in their home. Often these caregivers don't get a break because the one being cared for cannot be left alone. If you know someone in this situation, stop by with a box of candy or some flowers, or even better, an offer to help out for a few hours so they can get a break or perhaps have a small celebration with their spouse. You can learn more about ways to assist at The [CareGiver Community](#).

You will leave feeling as though you have made a difference in the lives of others and shown some love on Valentine's Day.

If you're looking for something that won't cost much and won't be any hassle, look at renting a bunch of movies or watching a game and ordering a pizza. This can be a great way to spend time with friends on Valentine's Day. You won't have to worry about getting all dressed up to go somewhere fancy. Instead you can just relax, be yourself and enjoy a great evening with some buddies. You can even open a bottle of wine and toast all those who are out celebrating with a loved one this evening.

The Best Gift You Can Give

*A wise lover values not so much the gift
of the lover as the love of the giver.
~ Thomas á Kempis*

You are the best gift you can give for Valentine's Day. When it comes down to it, no gift, regardless of how unique or expensive, can take your place in her heart. The most romantic place in town will be empty without you. The roses won't smell as fragrant, or the chocolate taste as sweet without the thought of the one who gave them.

Regardless of what you do for Valentine's, or what type of gift you give, whether you have a perfect dinner or eat left overs from the fridge, everything will work out fine as long as you give your her your heart.

There is no way to imitate true love, which can only come from the heart. "Guard your heart, for out of it flow the issues of life," wrote wise King Solomon nearly three thousand years ago. If you have any issues that are holding you back from giving your heart fully to your beloved (and who among us doesn't), don't ignore them. Face them head on. Life is a journey, and those closest to us are given to us as companions on the way.

A powerful resource for working out issues of the heart is the [Healing Codes](#). It combines ancient wisdom with the latest in quantum physics to unlock deep seated issues at the root.

Poems to Warm Her Heart

*At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet.
~ Plato*

Add a poem or lovely verse to your greeting card or better yet, memorize and recite it as you give your beloved a red rose or box of chocolates. It won't cost you a penny, and you'll melt her heart. We've collected a few to get you going.

She Walks in Beauty

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling-
place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent.

~ Lord Byron

The Skylark

Bird of the wilderness,
Blithesome and cumberless,
Sweet be thy matin o'er moorland and lea!
Emblem of happiness,
Blest is thy dwelling-place—
Oh, to abide in the desert with thee!

Wild is thy lay and loud,
Far in the downy cloud,
Love gives it energy, love gave it birth.
Where on thy dewy wing,
Where art thou journeying?
Thy lay is in heaven, thy love is on earth.

O'er fell and fountain sheen,
O'er moor and mountain green,
O'er the red streamer that heralds the day,
Over the cloudlet dim,
Over the rainbow's rim,
Musical cherub, soar, singing away!

Then, when the gloaming comes,
Low in the heather blooms,
Sweet will thy welcome and bed of love be!
Emblem of happiness,
Blest is thy dwelling-place—
Oh, to abide in the desert with thee!

~ James Hogg

The Passionate Shepherd to His Love

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove,
That hills and valleys, dales and fields,
And all the craggy mountains yields.

There we will sit upon the rocks,
And see the shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses
With a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;
Fair lined slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and ivy buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and be my love.

The shepherds' swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my love.!

~ Christopher Marlowe

Believe Me if All Those Endearing Young Charms

Believe me, if all those endearing young charms
Which I gaze on so fondly today
Were to change by tomorrow and fleet in my arms
Like fairy gifts fading away.
Thou wouldst still be adored as this moment thou art
Let thy loveliness fade as it will
And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart
Would entwine itself verdantly still.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own
And thy cheeks unprofaned by a tear
That the fervor and faith of a soul can be known
To which time will but make thee more dear.
No, the heart that has truly loved never forgets
But as truly loves on to the close
As the sunflower turns to her God when he sets
The same look which she turned when he rose.

~ Thomas Moore