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Buying A Romantic Gift For Him

By Marguerite Bonneville

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Buying gifts for a man is easy if you know what his interests are. And while many of the gifts that men like won't necessarily qualify as 'romantic' – at least from a woman's point of view – this is the time to be a little flexible in your approach.

What's the point of buying him a designer bath set when he'd rather have a new pair of running shoes?

After all, the idea behind gift giving is that you give the person something they'll treasure, or at least appreciate. And while it might not be what you'd want for yourself, this is about him. So maybe it's time to expand the definition of a romantic gift.

So what do men want?

We once overheard a male friend complaining, "Just once I'd like to open a Christmas gift and find a great set of wrenches instead of socks and a silk bathrobe!"

Another man we read about lamented, "Wouldn't it be great to have my girlfriend say to me, 'I love it when you turn up for dinner with grease under your fingernails after working in your garage. And I hope you realize that I don't mind how long you spend in there because I know how much you enjoy it.' If she said something like that instead of carping at me for wasting time in the garage, I'd know she accepts me for who I am."

On the other hand, a male schoolteacher we know said, "I'd love a woman to send me flowers. Or give me a book of poetry by my favorite Australian bush poets. It would show that she's taken the time to learn what I like."

So obviously it takes all kinds. Many men enjoy receiving sensual gifts from their lovers, while other prefer something "practical". And many women accept and support their boyfriends' preoccupations with "guy stuff" and buy them exactly what they want. One woman whose husband loved putting things together presented him with his gift in pieces (each individually wrapped) so he'd have the additional

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pleasure of assembling it himself. He was absolutely blown away by her thoughtfulness.

How about the man in your life?

Where does your relationship fit in? Is your partner an action man? Mr. Wall Street? A brooding rebel? A sensitive writer or artist? A solid citizen? Or any of the other million variations we see in the male gender?

Whoever he is, he has his own likes and dislikes, things that excite him and things that bore him to tears. So if you don't know him well enough to buy him a gift he'll salivate over (and we don't mean Playboy magazine), ask someone who does. This might include

- the man himself
- his best friend
- his brother
- his father

Or simply observe what he likes and dislikes and file the information away for when you need it. Then give him something he'll absolutely love.

Marguerite Bonneville is a Master Practitioner of Neuro–Linguistic Programming (NLP) whose passion is publishing information online. She is a contributing writer for <http://www.romantic-gift-ideas-online.com>, a resource site dedicated to helping visitors find the perfect romantic gift.

Finding A Romantic Gift For Her

By Marguerite Bonneville

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Let's face it. In many ways women are easy to buy for. Most of us love the traditional romantic gifts including:

Chocolates
Flowers
Jewelry
Lingerie
Perfume
Candles
Soft Toys
Clothes

But on the other hand we're difficult to buy for. We know what we like, and we don't want to settle for

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less. We pay attention to little things, so we appreciate it when you give us a gift in our favorite color, or one that has special meaning.

We love romantic gestures, like poetry, love letters and romantic music. Men often consider us gullible when they see us being 'taken in' by another man's soft words and candlelight dinners. The truth is, we often know when we're being played, but we can't help responding to the gesture. We'd like it to be sincere so we convince ourselves that it is. And occasionally, the manipulative male becomes a victim of his own techniques and falls for the woman he set out to victimize.

But falling for romantic gestures isn't a sign of weakness. A woman can muster huge wells of strength and resourcefulness when the situation calls for it. Some women get addicted to this power and let go of the so-called feminine side of their natures. Others realize that you can have both.

So what it's really about is knowing the woman that you're buying for. You know you're in trouble when you make generalizations like, "Women love flowers" or "I'm sure she'd like a box of chocolates for her birthday". She may prefer some clay for her sculptures or some new gardening tools. Romance is more about the care that went into choosing the gift rather than the gift itself.

Here's a story that illustrates this point:

Barbara and her husband John often talked about their pasts, including their experiences as young children. In the course of one particular conversation, Barbara described a beautiful old-fashioned pencil case her mother gave her when she first started school. She hadn't thought about the case in years, but at the time it was one of her most treasured possessions.

Six months later, John was browsing in a specialty store when he came across a pencil case that matched Barbara's description. He immediately bought it and presented it to her that night.

Barbara was delighted with his gift and amazed that John had recalled their conversation. To her the gift was magical. It felt as if John had restored a little piece of her childhood.

People give you clues about what they want continuously in their daily conversation. It's up to you to pay attention and surprise them later with a well-chosen gift. This type of thoughtfulness works wonders in a relationship.

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