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Review of "The Best Picnic Ever"

By Sherri Allen

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by Clare Jarrett

Candlewick Press, May 2004
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Recommended Ages: Baby – Preschool

Review by Sherri Allen:

Take an ordinary picnic, add lots of whizzing, whooshing, tootling and lolloping, and you've got "The Best Picnic Ever," an engaging children's storybook by Clare Jarrett.

Jack and his mom go to the park for a picnic. After Jack wishes he had someone to play with, fanciful friends start appearing, ready to have fun.

Jarrett did an excellent job writing and illustrating "The Best Picnic Ever." The story's playful words are perfectly complemented by the lively colored-pencil drawings. I encourage you to share "The Best Picnic Ever" with your favorite picnic-loving preschooler.

About the Reviewer: Sherri Allen is the editor of an award-winning website devoted to topics such as family, food, garden, house&home and money. For free articles, information, tips, recipes, reviews and coloring pages, visit <http://www.SherriAllen.com/>

Yes, You Can Have a Romantic Valentine's Day, On A Budget

By Nicola Kennedy

Review of "The Best Picnic Ever"

While we would all like to whisk our partner away to celebrate St Valentine's Day at an exotic five star resort, I know I can't afford it, just yet!

Here are some ideas for Valentine's Day luxuries on a budget that will amaze your partner. And if you do it just right, with a little creativity, you can have the ultra-romantic day that will convince your loved one of how much you love him or her. Again.

Getting out into the open air, just the two of you, is a great way to spend Valentines. Head for the hills or the state park. There are walks to suit all – whether its an easy walk or a more demanding hike. Remember, it's February, so its likely that the place will be deserted and you will have all that natural beauty to yourself. And outdoor privacy is so romantic!

Take along a special picnic when you go out. In a small picnic basket collect a tablecloth, a vase with a realistic rose in it, 2 taper candles with holders (don't forget a lighter) and a lovely meal for two. When you reach the picnic area you can surprise your partner by setting the table for a romantic meal. Sit down and enjoy!

You could take the picnic with you on a romantic drive, or for a day out kite flying or bicycling. Remember that it's being together that is important.

The outdoors idea even works for couples that have children. There's always plenty for the kids to do if there is a safe and empty playground close by. What better way to celebrate your love than by keeping one eye on the children and reminding yourself why you love them, and their other parent, so much.

Don't fancy the great, romantic, outdoors? Cooking your romantic Valentine's meal together is a great way to share the day. Make sure that your dinner choice is something you will both enjoy, even better if its a special treat you don't often have. Go over the top in decorating the dining room and go to town on the place settings. Make sure you both dress up in your best clothes, as if it was your first date, with your best jewelry and scent.

The main thing to remember is that if you are together you will have as romantic a time as you would have at a posh resort or an exclusive restaurant. It's the thought that counts, not how much money you spend.

Nicola Kennedy has become an expert in

. And her husband

appreciates it! Visit her site <http://www.Best-Valentine.info> for more ideas on how to make Valentines 2006 a special one. Copyright Best-Valentine.info All rights reserved. This article may be reprinted in full so long as the resource box and the live links are included intact.



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