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Romance for Every Day of the Month

By Nicole Dean

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by: **Nicole Dean**

My girlfriends and I were talking. We decided that we needed to teach the men in our lives this phrase "Romance does not equal money." The men I've talked with have been frightened off by television and movies and believe that romance is something outside of their budget. They are wrong. Romance does not equal money! Although an occasional diamond necklace or expensive dinner is appreciated, it is truly the day to day affection that builds romance and love.

I don't know about you, but when I think of the most romantic and breathtaking stories that girlfriends discuss over coffee, we don't talk about flying off to Europe or drinking the most expensive champagne. The little things like holding hands, reading stories together, and lots of laughter are what we hold dear. And, ladies, this list is for you, too. Initiate the following ideas with your Sweetie, and show him how much you care. The 31 ideas below are for men or women and fit every budget.

Love Notes – Leave Love Notes for your Sweetheart to find.

Pampering – Brush her hair. Scratch his back.

Wildlife – Feed the ducks, squirrels, birds, turtles or fish near you.

Games – Turn off the TV. Sit and play cards or board games together.

Cooking – Find recipes to make with your sweetheart.

Candles – Candles should be used every day --- for meals, bath time, snuggling.

Read together – Choose a book and take turns reading it to each other.

Photos – When is the last time you had a photo taken together? What are you waiting for?

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Work Date – Surprise your love with a lunch date.

Stroll – Leave the TV, phone and computer behind and go on a walk together.

Spell it Out – With Sidewalk Chalk, write your names in a heart on the sidewalk where your sweetheart is sure to see it.

Entertainment – Go see a High School or College play or concert. It is affordable and fun!

Slow Dance – Turn on the radio and dance to the songs you fell in love listening to.

Star Gaze – Drive out to the country and look at the stars.

Volunteer – Choose a charity or cause that means something to both of you and work together to make the world a better place.

Love Story – Write how you met, fell in love, how you felt, what your thoughts were. You will treasure looking through these books over the years.

Love Grows – Plant a garden together. Herbs, vegetables, flowers, fruit — anything you both like.

Cheer – Go to a High School Sporting Event.

Warm Hearts – Snuggle by a campfire or build a fire in the fireplace.

Watch the Clouds – Lay together and watch the clouds go by. Talk about the different shapes you see.

Connect – Hug, Hold Hands, Put your Arm around your Sweetheart.

Big Money – Write your Sweetheart a Check for One Million Kisses. Or make a coupon book of treats for him or her.

Window Shop – Go downtown and window shop.

Early Days – Look at photo albums of yourselves when you were kids through your dating years.

Puzzles – Do a jigsaw or crossword puzzle together.

Wish List – Both make a wish list of things that make you happy and put them in order. Hugs, dates, gifts, time together, intimacy, etc. Then look at the lists. They may surprise you.

People Watch – Sit on a bench and watch people go by. Try to guess their stories.

Play – Go to the park and swing.

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Kiss – Before you part for the day, kiss for 10 seconds. It is much better than a quick peck on the cheek.

Picnic – Get take out food or make a picnic lunch. Take your time and enjoy your meal together outdoors.

Throw Rocks – Go to a pond, creek, or lake and throw rocks. Try to skip them or aim for different targets.

So, although an occasional diamond necklace or expensive dinner is nice, it is truly the day-to-day affection that builds romance and love.

Nicole Dean is the owner of Show Mom the Money (

) -- a fun and

exciting site for Moms.

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Valentine's Day - A Romantic Peak Or A Commercial Basement?

By Roy Thomsitt

Every year there is a surge in romantic interest as February, the Month of Hearts, approaches, and the scent of Valentine's Day begins to waft in the air. When it comes to reality, though, how much of that surge is genuinely about romance? Is it not all a commercial exercise designed to rake in the profits?

I do not think anyone can argue that commercial interests contribute greatly to the publicity that surrounds Valentine's Day. You see it everywhere from Christmas onwards; the Valentine's cards, the Valentine's chocolates with their heart shaped boxes and pictures of roses, plus of course all the advertisements for the roses themselves and how you must book early for that Valentine evening meal.

The commercial side of Valentine's can appear so overwhelming you may be persuaded to believe that it is nothing to do with love and romance at all, but purely about making money; that the hearts and the roses are nothing more than artificial symbols of a romantic world that no longer exists.

With much of Western society having a hardened veneer, where underneath relationships fall apart with a puff of wind, and divorce is almost built into marriage, anyone can be forgiven for taking such a

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cynical view. However, dismissing the whole Valentine Day experience as nothing but commercial is far too simplistic, and to do so is to deny oneself a far richer experience: that of genuine romance and love.

Any commercial venture only succeeds if there is a demand, and Valentine's Day has been a commercial success for many years. Before then, the Valentine's tradition itself had evolved over many centuries, long before commerce became the apparent driving force behind it. So where has the modern demand come from for an event such as Valentine's Day?

Love, attraction, obsession, and romance are as old as the hills, and are integral to the human constitution. While many modern people may claim that they prefer to be alone and do not need anyone else, do not need love and romance in their lives, if they were truly honest with themselves they may say something very different. It is not "macho" to publicly need love, affection and romance, so many hide from their own truth, that they probably yearn for the love of another as much as the most openly romantic.

Others, though, reflect as much desire for romantic love as any man or woman over the centuries, and it is deeply natural to do so. They reflect those desires as they go searching for romantic fiction, love poems and true love stories by the million. If they do have love in their lives as Valentine's Day comes around, then they are well prepared to make the most of it; to indulge in the romantic image with their own twist of reality and desire.

Love and romance have not died and will never die. Some may shy away in fear of the pain of a failed or a tragic romance; but others dive in head first, not fearful that their love will turn out to be as tragic as Romeo and Juliet. Such people provide the never ending demand for a Valentine's Day that transcends the commercial and explores all the bright and dark corridors of romance. In other words, experience life to the full, and risk the pain and heartache to achieve the ecstasy.

This Valentines Day

article was written by Roy Thomsitt.

Enjoy a good romance? You can also read Roy's Romeo and Juliet story.

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