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**The Four Most Romantic Gestures**

**By Staci Stallings**

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Ask what's missing in most marriages today, and the women in them will tell you, "the romance." For the un-romantic among us, the "romance" that these women are talking about has nothing to do with clothes dropping next to hot bodies. What's been neglected is the real romance that people who are newly in love do automatically but fall away from once the "realities" of marriage and relationship maintenance take over.

In writing inspirational romances, it wasn't long until I ran into the question of the anticipated bedroom scene. Being Christian myself and having seen the consequences of traveling down both the paths of chastity and promiscuity, I knew I didn't want to promote anything that would degrade the spirits of either my characters or my readers.

Thus I knew that any pre-wedding bedroom scenes were not an option for me. So, what was left? That was the big question, and it forced me to look at what feels romantic to me—sans the bedroom scene. That's when I realized how important the four most romantic gestures are to women. It is through these gestures that we feel acknowledged, heard, and ultimately loved.

The first of these is simply holding hands. This gesture tells a woman that she has an ally in this world—that she's not in this alone. It is the precursor to a warm body lying next to hers at night, and for a married woman, it can literally be a precursor to a warm body next to hers at night. This act exudes safety, and therefore is romantic in-and-of itself. I witnessed the awesome message of this simple gesture at my own wedding when my parents, 28-years-married, walked up to light their side of the unity candle hand-in-hand. It wasn't planned. It was just their natural way of communicating they were there for each other no matter what.

A second truly romantic gesture is that of hugging or holding each other. I'm sure you've seen them—those people who are newly in love. They are in each other's arms at every opportunity. Their hugs are often not intense, "I want you right now" types. More often they are simply, "I'm really glad you're here and I want to be close to you" gestures. The feeling of being protected while simultaneously protecting is as primal as the need for food and shelter.

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Notice, for example, what happens when a father hugs a child's mother. Instantly the child runs to them and burrows between them. It is not an effort to separate the hug, it is an effort to become a part of the hug, to be fully accepted by another person that you love.

Another romantic act is that of touching of the face or hair of another. Mothers with small children will stroke the child's hair as they are falling asleep, and when one person strokes another's hair or face, it evokes the security in these earliest exchanges with another human being.

Finally, the act of talking gets a lot of publicity in today's world. The ways "Mars" and "Venus" communicate or fail to communicate has been picked apart to the marrow inside the bone. However, one thing I think that all this understanding has missed is how close really talking with each other can

make both partners feel.

Anyone who's ever been married knows how easy it is to get caught up in the six word sentences, repeated every night and called communication. "How was your day?" "Fine." "You get that account closed out?" "Yeah." You know this conversation. If you've ever been married, you've probably had this conversation.

However, this isn't the kind of talking I mean. What I mean is getting under the surface of life to what's going on in a person's spirit. Those newly in love know how incredible it can feel to open up to another person and let them see into your soul and then believe you are accepted for who you really are—rather than for the mask you show the outside world. Not only that, but we all know someone we would like to get to know better, someone we could spend hours with and never tire of asking them questions about who they are and how they got to this place.

That, I think, is the point. When we are first in love, we want to find out everything about the other person. We want to find out what they love, and what they hate, who they love, and who they hate. At some point, however, we begin to think we know everything about the other person, and we stop asking—and listening. This is the beginning of the death of romance.

So, if you really want to feel close again, shut off the television, put down the book, forget the laundry and the dishes for the night. Sit down, put your arm around your mate, and talk. Get to know each other again. I guarantee you both will feel the romance return. It doesn't take a myriad of candles, flowers, and candy. It takes two people who want to spend time together and get to know one another better. That's true romance.

Are you looking for true inspiration that will bring you closer to God's plan for you? Staci Stallings, the author of this article, believes you should have inspiration and God's love in abundance! If you agree, send a blank email to [inspiration@stacistallings.com](mailto:inspiration@stacistallings.com) to receive 5 days of pure, homegrown, life-changing inspiration right into your inbox. All you have to do is open the emails and read! You'll feel better for the experience!

### **Don't Compare Partners**

## The Four Most Romantic Gestures

**By Rinatta Paries**

### **Don't Compare Partners by Rinatta Paries**

Have you ever found yourself comparing your current partner to someone from your past, and finding your current partner lacking? Worse yet, have you found yourself telling your current partner he or she is being compared to someone in your past and falls short?

What is it we are really after when comparing current and former partners? Do we want our current partners to be just like our exes? Probably not, or we would still be in those relationships. I think when we are making a comparison, we are really after something else. My hunch is what most of us really want is to have our current partners meet some specific needs and desires in the same, natural way as our past partners did.

Unfortunately, when we make this comparison between partners and then tell our partner about it, he or she will probably not take the feedback well. In fact, your partner will be very likely to feel angry, resentful, and to make sure not to do what you want.

How can you, then, get what you want in a more effective way than causing resentment and anger in your partner? How can you have your needs and desires satisfied? It's simple, really. Just ask. But be sure to ask without making your partner wrong for not already having met your needs.

Let's look at an example. Let's say you are not getting enough romance in your current relationship, but had gotten plenty of it in your past relationship, and liked it that way.

If you were comparing your current partner to your ex, you might say things like, "Why aren't you more like X? He (or she) was so romantic. I would get flowers and cards from him all of the time." Or, you might say, "She was much more interested in romance and intimacy than you are." Then you might finish with, "You are just not like him (or her)," with a negative connotation in your voice.

As I said, after this kind of encounter, it's unlikely you will experience romantic gestures from your current partner, even if he or she originally had a desire to be romantic.

Asking for your needs to be met looks very different than comparing partners and making your current partner wrong.

You may say something like, "You know, I really like and appreciate romantic gestures. Flowers or cards would make me feel loved and appreciated. Physical intimacy would make me feel loved and connected to you. I would like more of these from you. Can you do that for me?"

With an approach like this, you are much more likely to get what you want.

So stop comparing and start asking!

Your Relationship Coach,

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Rinatta Paries  
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Having coined the phrase "relationship coach," Master Certified Coach Rinatta Paries works with singles to help them attract their ideal relationship, and helps couples create more love and fulfillment in their existing relationships. Visit her web site at [www.WhatItTakes.com](http://www.WhatItTakes.com) or e-mail her at [coach@WhatItTakes.com](mailto:coach@WhatItTakes.com).



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