

Love is in the air and it doesn't need to break your bank!

My boyfriend hates Valentine's Day. Like most other men, he calls it a Hallmark Holiday. To me, Valentine's day is important, not because of St Valentine but because the first time I found out about Valentine's day was when I was 12 years old and received an anonymous Valentine's Day card. I am a hopeless romantic who just does not know when to quit.

I have tried to explain this to my boyfriend, we have sort of come to an agreement where he will do what I ask him to so that the day is special. Ok, I know that does not sound terribly romantic, but there is more to it. The fact that he is willing to make an effort and go an extra mile makes it special. Knowing that he does not care about the day but happily goes through the motions just to see my eyes sparkle with joy (his words, not mine) makes it even more endearing.

Great ideas to make it this Valentine's Day a romantic day or any other day a romantic day.

- ◆ Last minute getaway. Tell her beforehand that you are taking her out for dinner, sneak into her wardrobe and pack a pair of shorts and a tank top, pajamas, toothbrush, and a pair of sandals. Conveniently get lost on the way, being a man that you are, you know you won't ask for directions, keep driving and end up at that cute little bed and breakfast or a sweet little hotel on the beach, where you already have reservations.
- ◆ Serve her breakfast in bed. If you can't cook you can always run out to the nearest Panera Bread or Dunkin Donuts and buy a meal. Bring it to her in bed - in a real plate, nice silverware and definitely a pretty napkin!
- ◆ Candlelit dinner will melt any woman's heart, no matter how many times you have done it before. Add the special lighting effects (dim lighting) and romantic songs playing softly in the background. You can rustle up a meal of your own. If you are on a budget and are severely lacking in culinary skills, may I recommend the frozen dinners from the grocery store, fresh bread and fresh dessert from the bakery?
- ◆ Give her a massage. If you don't know how to do it, google it and learn or if you are too lazy to get the information, buy her a package at the spa.
- ◆ Write her a letter telling her why you love her. It doesn't need to be fancy, just be honest.
- ◆ If creative, write her a poem. My boyfriend writes me poems all the time, the first time he wrote me one I had no idea how

to react, but the effort definitely touched my heart. He has become better at it since then.

- ◆ Pack a picnic and go to the beach for dinner. Watch the moon against the waves and tell her what she means to you.
- ◆ Run a bath for her with a really nice bubble bath, have her bathrobe and towels waiting for her.
- ◆ Buy a diary for you and her, write a special message for her in it and tell her that you will think of her every time you write in yours.
- ◆ Burn a CD for her with all her favorite songs, it shows that you care and that you actually pay attention to her when she talks about music or what she likes.
- ◆ Chocolates are always a great gift to give, no matter what time of the month or year it is.
- ◆ Flowers – just because the rose symbolizes love does not mean you have to buy her a rose. Find out what her favorite flower is and get that for her.
- ◆ Request her favorite song on the radio while you eat a romantic dinner at home. Send a special message with the song that you dedicated to her.
- ◆ Recreate your first date with her. Women are really into strolls down the memory lane, especially the good stuff.
- ◆ Watch a chick flick with her, make some popcorn, grab a box of tissues and feel free to use them. Hold her hand throughout the movie.
- ◆ Of course, buying her lingerie will curry you a lot of favors.

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