

DEU ELT MAGAZINE



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Endless Thanks To Our Loved Ones

Valentine's Day might seem like a romantic and special day for lovers, a time to express their affection with greetings and gifts. However, it is also a day to express your love, gratitude, and appreciation to your loved ones. You can show your love to your mom, dad, siblings, friends, teacher, or partner. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend a meaningful day with those who matter most.

A heartfelt thanks to our loved ones who care for us, and support us no matter what. Thank you for being there and for everything you do.

In this issue, you'll find some ideas on how to show your feelings to your loved ones, which we hope will inspire you.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to our dear professors, who guide us on our journey.

A special thanks to our writers and editors for their hard work and dedication.

And of course, thanks a million to our dear readers.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day with your loved ones!

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CULTURE



WHAT FEBRUARY 14 HAS TO DO WITH THE VALENTINES?



Valentine's Day, every year on February 14, is celebrated with heart-shaped gifts, red balloons, cookies, presents, love cards and everything that can be linked with love. Even though February 14 is welcomed passionately, and it contains lots of love, the history behind this day is not that glorious.

According to the first story of its history, there once was a priest whose name was Valentine in the 3rd century in Rome. At those times, marriages were made forbidden by the Emperor Claudius II for soldiers, and it was enacted as a law. But this law was seen as unfair by St. Valentine, so he continued helping people marry secretly. By the time this illegal act was realized, he was sentenced to death by Claudius.

The second story that has been told about Valentine is about him being a prisoner. A letter which was starting with the "From your Valentine" expression was sent to his crush. It became an expression that we still use today. This event could be a romantic starting point for the meaning behind the day.

After reading about these two stories about the origins of Valentine's Day, you may still question how this day started to be associated with love and got separated from the execution of St. Valentine. If it is so, English poet Geoffrey Chaucer comes to mind immediately. Let's have a look at the Middle Ages' mentality first.

During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season. Considering this fact, "Parliament of Fowles" was written by Geoffrey Chaucer. It is a poem about birds, each of which represents a different aspect of English society. And 14th of February is when the male birds were trying to mate with females. After that poem, February 14 started to be seen as more of a romantic day rather than a Remembrance Day for St. Valentine.

After learning about the background of Valentine's Day, we can celebrate it with our loved ones!



Last December, I've watched a limited series called Invisible. This series, which I came across by chance, has become one of my favorites in 2024. Producers of the series have combined an intriguing story with such an impressive script that I can even say that this series is one of the best series ever made about peer bullying and PTSD.

The series begins with a 12-year-old boy waking up from a coma in a hospital room. At the beginning of the story, he claims that he doesn't remember anything about "the incident" and starts sessions with a psychologist. Throughout the episodes, he tells the psychologist about the process he has gone through, and we discover his story together with the psychologist. This series, which has only 6 episodes, shows peer bullying and its consequences through the eyes of a child in an extremely realistic way.

In some parts of the series, fantastic elements are used to make the story more impressive. For example, the main character believes that he is invisible and other people do not help him for this reason. Another character, who is also a victim of bullying, talks to a dragon, and the dragon is the symbol of her inner feelings. When she wants revenge, the dragon wants to burn everything, and when she wants to protect someone, the dragon spreads its wings. It is not revealed until the last episode whether these fantastic elements are real or not.

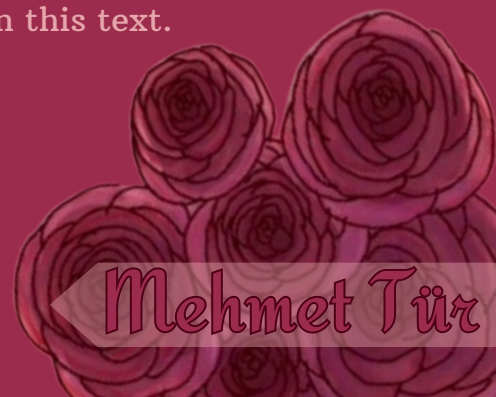
Each episode of the series begins and ends with a warning. This warning says that "if you need support, you should seek help from someone you trust." Also, in the series there are some episodes that focus on the story of different characters. This allows us to empathize with every main character.

To sum up, with only 6 episodes, Invisible is one of the shortest series that you can watch. Nevertheless, it is one of the best of its kind. For a few years, there haven't been too many shows that carry such a hidden message. This series is an exception because it gives lots of messages with an impressive story. I think every teacher and every student should watch this series to have a clearer vision about bullying.

PS: As a reference to the fact that the main character feels invisible, I did not mention his name in this text.

Red roses symbolize all the qualities that speak to a powerful and genuinely beautiful love story.

They represent devotion, passion, romance, desire, and true love. This makes them the best flower to share on Valentine's Day, weddings, anniversaries, and other romantic special events.



Mehmet Tür

Community

Becoming a part of the environment or the entourage or the friend group or the family from a TV series, forming almost familial bonds with its characters, sharing their anguish, grief or conflicts is a common experience almost all TV watchers often experience while watching a TV show. However, only a handful of TV shows can invoke such feelings as strongly and as vividly as Community.

The "currently popular" sitcom from the years of 2009 to 2016 was known for being "one of the most underrated" productions in TV until it was previewed on Netflix in 2020 therefore partly getting the recognition it deserved. The series tells the story of a group of misfit students who are radically different from each other, including their values, views, lifestyles, aims, ambitions or hobbies. A study group is formed and maintained in order to survive a public university whose administration is comically incompetent and whose students and professors are borderline insane. The jealousy inducing bonds between each member of the study group is perfectly displayed on the screen for the viewers to experience. On the other hand of course, for comedic purposes, their conflict with each other, with the school, professors and other students where cartoonish, ridiculous events always seem to happen.

What sets Community apart from other sitcoms is not only the iconic characters and the unusual setting with a different relationship or a "family" dynamic, but also the creative writing. Apocalyptic paintball wars, campus wide pillow-

In floriography, the Iris Flower symbolises faith, courage, valor, hope and wisdom. However, the colors of iris flowers have a range of different meanings, and choosing the right color can determine how your flower is received.

Red irises are symbols of romantic passion and love. They make a wonderful alternative to red roses on romantic occasions, such as anniversaries and dates.





-fights, "floor is lava games", zombie outbreaks, parallel universes and evil doppelgangers etc. Moreover, the show utilizes a lot of pop culture references from other movies and shows for viewers to explore alternative media according to their preferences. One of the most unique features, along with the creative writing is the frequent destruction of the 4th wall. These references and trippy 4th wall breaks are done through a study group member who is aware that he is in a TV show. The witty jokes are sometimes so complex and so easy to fly over one's head that it is possible to catch references, easter eggs and jokes one couldn't have caught at the first or second watch.

To sum everything up, as long as one doesn't allow the show to leave a false impression on how college life will feel like, as long as one can get over one of the toughest feelings of emptiness because of a TV show finale and as long as one is okay with the idea of finding every other sitcom mediocre after the finale then Community will undoubtedly leave a good taste in the mouth. It makes one go through an experience that truly, no other media could properly replicate.



Erdem Kuskan



Perfect Sense

The love drama Perfect Sense has a distinctive and poignant plot. David Mackenzie directed it, and it came out in 2011. The film's protagonists are Eva Green and Ewan McGregor. During a worldwide crisis, when individuals start losing their senses one by one, the story is about love and human connection. It is a provocative movie that gets us to think about relationships, life, and what really counts. The narrative is unique and captivating. It depicts a world in which humans gradually lose their senses of taste, smell, hearing, and sight. Every loss follows a powerful emotional outburst, such as joy, rage, or despair. In spite of this, the film centers on two characters: Susan (Eva Green), a scientist, and Michael (Ewan McGregor), a chef. They meet by chance and fall in love just as the world changes terrifyingly. Their love story is both beautiful and heartbreaking because they face many challenges together. They must find new ways to communicate and stay connected as their senses disappear. The movie shows how people adapt to difficult situations and find strength in each other.

The story makes us think deeply about what is important in life. We often take our senses for granted, like being able to smell flowers, taste delicious food, or hear music. But when these are gone, what do we have left? The movie teaches us that love, connection, and kindness are the most valuable things in life. It shows how people can come together to support one another even when everything seems lost. The characters' ability to find joy and meaning in small moments, like a hug or a smile, is inspiring. It reminds us that human relationships are more important than material things or physical pleasures.

The cinematography in Perfect Sense is also very powerful. Mackenzie, the director, uses close-up shots to show the emotions of the characters in detail. These moments make the audience feel connected to their pain, love, and hope. The colors and lighting change with the mood of the story, creating a visual experience that matches the emotions. For instance, during moments of despair, the scenes are darker and colder, while moments of love and hope are brighter and warmer. The use of sound is also very creative. As the characters lose their senses, the soundtrack becomes quieter, making us feel what they are experiencing which always makes me think that it's remarkable.-



-A fun fact to add is that the movie gained particular attention after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some people related it to conspiracy theories, claiming that the COVID infection was actually planned and that the movie was foreshadowing what was going to happen.

In conclusion, Perfect Sense is a movie with an amazing story and beautiful cinematography. It is more than just a romantic drama; it is a film that makes us think about life, love, and the value of human connection. Even though it is a sad and emotional story, it also shows the power of hope and resilience. The movie teaches us to appreciate what we have and to cherish the people we love. It is a powerful film that stays with you long after you watch it.

Sıla Özateş

I Will Always Love You

I Will Always Love you is a song written and originally recorded in 1973 by American singer songwriter Dolly Parton. Contrary to the popular belief it wasn't written to a lover .This song was written as a farewell to her business partner and mentor Porter Wagoner. She thought “How could I tell him that I am so grateful for all the things but I have to go?” and decided to write a song. Therefore “I will always love you “ , which is one of the classics in music history, came up. This song is commonly known with Whitney Houston. In fact most of us think that I will always love you is her own song not a cover.She recorded a pop ballad arrangement of the song for “The Bodyguard” film. Houston’ s version peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. It became the best selling single of all the time by a female solo artist. Dolly appreciated Whitney Houston with these words “She made the song go worldwide when it was first released. It is a song which keeps me in wigs, hair and make up .”

Diren Şahin

I Will Always Love You by Whitney Houston

If I should stay
I would only be in your way
So I ll go, but I know
I'll think of you every step of the way

And I will always love you
I will always love you
You
My darling, you

Bittersweet memories
That is all I am taking with me
So goodbye, please don t cry
We both know I am not what you,
you need

And I will always love you
I will always love you

I hope life treats you kind
And I hope you have all you've dreamed of
And I wish you joy and happiness
But above all this, I wish you love

And I will always love you
I will always love you
I will always love you
I will always love you
I will always love you
I, I will always love you

You
Darling, I love you
Ooh, I'll always, I'll always love you

Just Like a Star



Corinne Bailey Rae... A voice like a breath of fresh air among all the noise around. She had a partner in her life who made her feel like everything about their dynamic was so natural and magical at the same time. She is mesmerized by how unexpected, thankfully in a good way, this relationship felt.

It was unexpected at first, but it was a good match. Such a naturally occurring event that fits her life so well, without making it strange. Like a star in her sky, like oil in her hands.

At least, this is how she describes it in the song 'Just Like a Star'.

The **violet** has been thought to symbolize modesty, faithfulness, everlasting love, innocence, and remembrance.

In the Victorian age, a gift of violets was a declaration always to be true. It still serves as a reminder of loyalty, thoughtfulness, and dependability. Give a violet to someone to let them know you'll always be there for them!

When presented as a flower, each color has its own meaning: yellow symbolizes high worth, white is for innocence and purity, purple means truth and loyalty, and blue is for faithfulness and devotion.



When you think of all the songs about love, they are personal, which makes it a little bit more difficult to relate to them. What Rae managed to do with the song is, it reaches a big audience. Even though it is not possible to expect everyone to have been through the same things in life, there are still pieces of simplicity in her lyrics that work as a string between her and the listeners.

Give it a listen. Totally deserves to be listened to not only on days like this but every time you look for something genuine.



Swan Lake

The İzmir State Opera and Ballet presented a mesmerizing performance of Tchaikovsky's timeless ballet, Swan Lake. This iconic tale of love, betrayal, and redemption was brought to life, leaving the audience captivated from start to finish. The stage design was simple and stylish, showing a shiny lake theme and soft, dreamy lighting that changed smoothly to show the contrast between Odette's innocence and Odile's trickery. The inclusion of natural elements, such as fog effects and cascading lights during the climactic scenes, amplified the emotional effect and created an otherworldly atmosphere.

The lead dancers gave amazing performances. Odette/Odile, played by the skilled Burcu Olguner and Cansu Polat, showed both grace and depth, moving easily between the Swan Queen's gentle delicate vulnerability gentle softness and her darker side's clever charm. Opposite her, Prince Siegfried, portrayed by Çağın Hazar Özideş, Ahmet Doruk Demirdirek, and Ali Eren Topçu, captured both strength and deep longing, creating a touching bond with Odette that carried the story forward.

The ensemble dancers of the corps de ballet showed amazing coordination, especially in the famous 'white swan' scenes. Their perfect formations and synchronized moves, along with their impressive costumes, created a feeling of harmony and beauty, taking the audience into the magical world of the enchanted lake.

The orchestra's performance of Tchaikovsky's music was truly wonderful. With its powerful rises and soft tunes, the music not only matched the dancers but also added to the emotional depth of the story. The teamwork between the musicians and dancers was smooth, making the experience engaging and touching for the audience.

To conclude, the İzmir State Opera and Ballet's performance of Swan Lake was an excellent version of this well-loved classic. With its perfect choreography, expressive costume and stage design, and impressive performances, the production brought Tchaikovsky's masterpiece to life, leaving a strong and lasting impact on everyone who watched it.

Selin Özer

Nisa Nur Erten





Where Love Takes You: Valentine's Day Destinations for Two



Hi there! I'm Saliha, a passionate traveler and an English teacher-to-be. I've been lucky enough to visit a few countries so far, and every trip has left me with unforgettable memories. I love exploring new places, tasting local flavors, and just soaking in the atmosphere.

If you ask me what my dream romantic trip would look like, here's the answer: a slow-paced, rush-free journey with my partner, where we can wander aimlessly, discover hidden gems, laugh at silly moments, and collect memories that last a lifetime. Sounds dreamy, right? Well, Valentine's Day is the perfect excuse to make that dream come true!

So, let me take you on a fun and heartfelt journey to two of the most romantic places on Earth. Pack your bags (and your heart), and let's go!

Prague, Czech Republic: A Fairytale Romance

Prague is the kind of city that feels like stepping into a storybook. The cobblestone streets, charming bridges, and fairytale-like castles make it an unforgettable destination.

Must-try moment: You absolutely have to try a *trdelník*, a delicious chimney cake that's a specialty of Prague. Let me tell you—it's huge! There's no way one person can finish it alone, so it's perfect to share with your partner. My favorite? The one filled with Nutella. It's warm, sweet, and unbelievably good! Sharing it while strolling through Prague's enchanting streets was definitely one of the highlights of my trip.



Venice, Italy: Love on the Water

Ever dreamed of being serenaded by a gondolier while floating through the canals of Venice? This is your chance! Just don't rock the boat too much while taking selfies, or you might end up in the water.

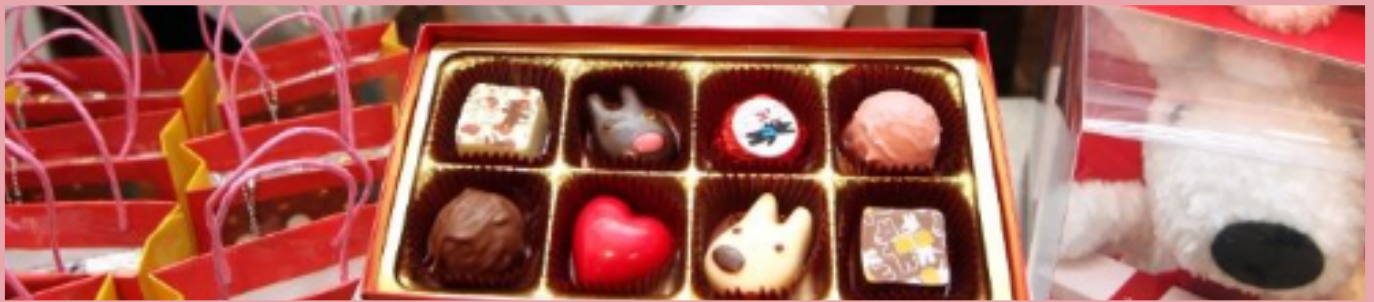
Must-try moment: Visit Two Cups, a small café known for serving some of the best tiramisu in Venice. Order two spoons, and prepare to fall in love—with the dessert, of course!



No matter which destination you choose, remember that the best part of any trip is the memories you make together. The places, food, and sights are wonderful, but what truly matters is the time spent with your loved one, creating moments that you'll treasure forever. <3

Valentine's Day

Hello everyone! As you already know, the big day is almost here (it might not be a big day for singles though 😊) 14th February, The Valentine's Day! Which means; lovers show their love extra care with gifts or want to spend good time together. There are various celebrations around the world on Valentine's Day but today I want to talk about 'how Korean people celebrate Valentine's Day in South Korea'.



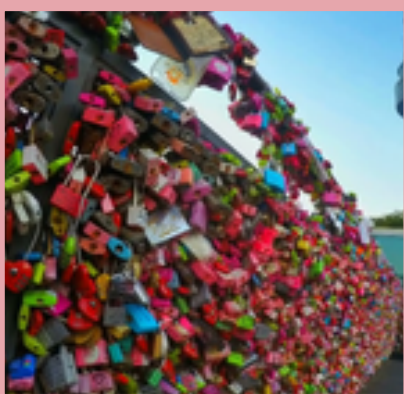
If you ask 'why do they do it?' as I mentioned, in the celebrations, there is a day called 'White Day' and it is on 14th March. At that time, it is men's turn to give women any kind of gift. We can think of 'White Day' as a kind of refund for men in South Korea.

We talked about gifts, then how about spending good time with your loved ones on Valentine's Day in South Korea?

Let me introduce you some famous destinations to spend good time together in Valentine's Days:

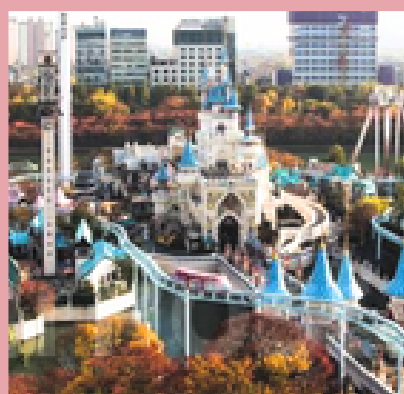
Namsan Tower

It is one of the romantic places where you can hang your heart shaped keychains and wish the best for your relationship. You can also enjoy the beautiful view.



Lotte World

This place is an amusement park but not just an ordinary one. This amusement park is huge and you can see couples more than children.



Han River

In my opinion, if you like night views you must go to the Han River. You can experience not only romantic vibes, but also peaceful moments here.



Arkas Art Center

Located in Konak, Izmir, Arkas Art Center is a perfect place to have a nice, cozy date with your significant other, friends, and family.

The building was built 130 years ago and survived to this day. It was first used as the Consulate General of France until 1983 and since 1984 it is used as the Honorary Consulate of France. In 2010, the building was restored by Arkas Holding and after an 8 month restoration period the part of the building that is facing the sea became -what we all know as- Arkas Art Center.

Arkas Art Center exhibits various other works with the Arkas Collection, which was created by Lucien Arkas, the Chairman of Arkas Holding, and contains more than nine hundred works.

There are 9 exhibition rooms and 1 atelier in the historical building, which consists of 2 floors that were converted into a contemporary art center of modern features. In addition to being a historical building brought back to Izmir, Arkas Art Center is also the first art center where the works of many international artists and the collections of important museums and institutions are exhibited.

Visiting days and hours

Monday -closed
Tuesday 10.00-18.00
Wednesday 10.00-18.00
Thursday 10.00-20.00
Friday 10.00-18.00
Saturday 10.00-18.00
Sunday 10.00-18.00

Adress: Fransa Sokak (1380 sk.) No:1 Alsancak, İzmir

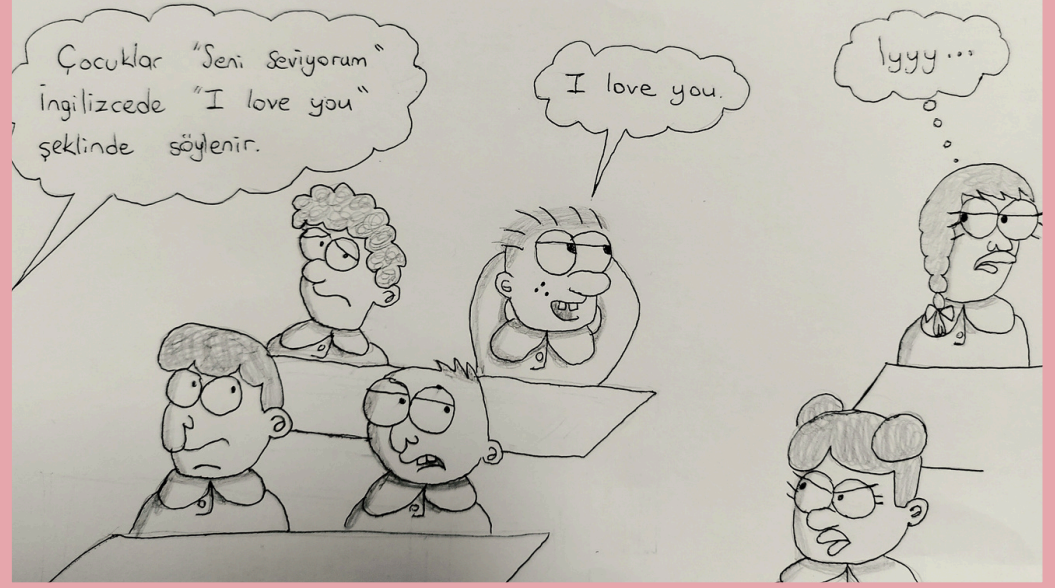
Phone number: +90 (232) 464 66 00



Ayşe Kalkışım



SEVGİLİLER GÜNÜNDE HAYLAZCAN



Beyzanur Murat



Easy

Valentine's Day Cake Recipe

For the cake:

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of sugar
- (1/4 cup) 60 ml of warm water
- A pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons of cocoa powder
- 1 packet of vanilla
- 1 packet of baking powder
- 1 + 1/4 cups (125g) of flour

For the cream:

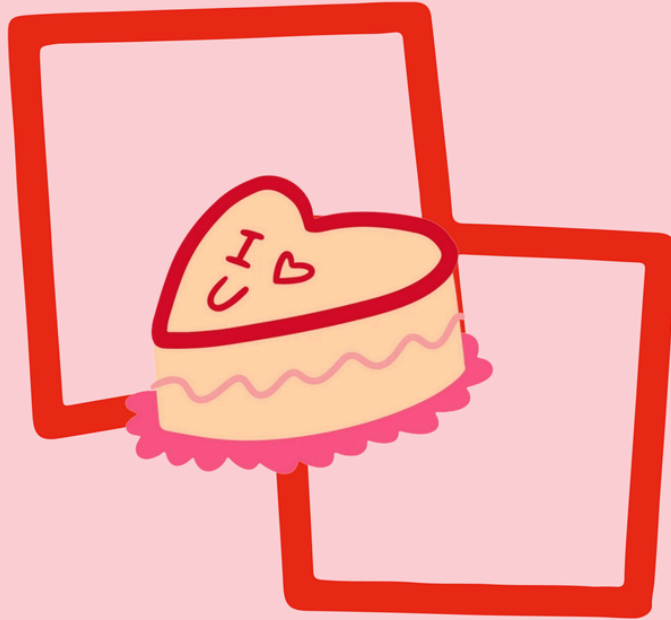
- 1 packet of pastry cream
- Red food coloring



How To Make a Heart Shaped Cake?

Instructions:

1. Whisk egg whites and salt until foamy. In a separate bowl, beat egg yolks and sugar until creamy.
 2. Gradually add warm water, then mix in flour, cocoa, baking powder, and vanilla.
 3. Gently fold in the egg whites. Pour into a parchment-lined pan.
 4. Bake at 180°C (356°F) for 25 minutes. Let cool completely.
 5. Cut the cake into 4 squares, then shape 2 squares into circles and halve them.
 6. Arrange one square and the semicircles into a heart shape on a serving plate.
 7. Layer with pastry cream, coat with red-tinted cream, and decorate.
- Enjoy your cake! ❤️



Merve Koch

Ayşe Kalkışım

Gift Ideas for Valentine's Day Based on Zodiac Signs



Aries (March 21 - April 19): As Aries ruled by Mars, they are known for their adventurous and bold nature. A thrilling as well as romantic experience like a hot air balloon ride or a day at an adventure park could be the perfect way to take their breath away.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Although they can be stubborn sometimes Taurus has a reliable and determined structure. They also have a deep appreciation for luxury and comfort. A hand made gift basket filled with chocolates, gourmet cheeses, and fine wine would be appealing to their tastes. You can also pair it with candles to create a cozy experience at home.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Both Gemini men and women are extremely intelligent with high communication skills. As they can get bored easily, be careful picking the right gift. You can plan a trip thus they will be happy to see new places and meet new people together. That kind of experience will be unforgettable for them.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Emotional and family-oriented Cancers love sentimental gifts. A frame with your photo together would be a great idea, especially one that you decorated yourself or a hand-written letter expressing your feelings would deeply touch their heart. Complement this with a cozy blanket or a home-cooked meal to create a warm, loving atmosphere.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Leos, king of the jungle, love to be the center of attention and appreciate grand gestures. They want to be treated queen-like/king-like. You can show how special they are by a personalized stunning piece of jewellery or a bouquet of their favourite flowers. And remember they can never get enough compliments.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Choosing a gift for Virgos, who are known for being perfectionists, is quite difficult. A Virgo can become so busy fixing the lives of those around them that they put themselves in second place. So, you should choose a gift that will pamper them. A high-quality planner or an all-in-one wellness tracker can help them stay on top of their goals and make them feel valued.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): When it comes to beauty, harmony and balance, the first zodiac sign that comes to mind is undoubtedly air sign Libras. Aesthetics are very important to Libras, who are often noted for their style. A set of elegantly designed home decor items or a luxurious silk scarf or a leather wallet can appeal to their aesthetic sense.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Scorpios are known for their deep intensity, passionate nature, and mysterious aura. They value gifts that hold deep meaning for example a piece of jewellery with a hidden message will be definitely cherished and remembered. Scented candles and high-quality, long-lasting perfumes are excellent choices for Scorpios, complementing both their emotional depth and powerful nature.

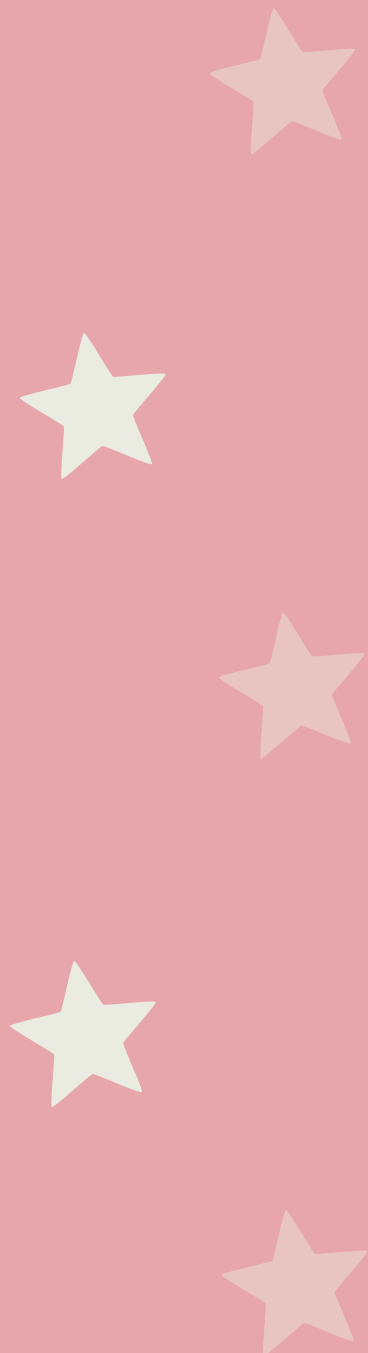
Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Known for their adventurous spirit, Sagittarians love discovering new places and ideas. A perfect choice can be a camera for capturing their travels or a journal to document their experiences. Additionally, headphones are fantastic gifts for these energetic and free-spirited Sagittarians.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Ambitious and disciplined Capricorns appreciate practical gifts that help them in their professional lives. A personalized desk organizer to help with their organized lifestyle or an elegant pen to note down their remarkable ideas. For relaxation, maybe a spa day can help them.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Aquarians are innovative and forward-thinking, and they love technology. A perfect gift could be a smartwatch or a smart home device, like a voice-controlled assistant as well as portable charger. Plus, an amethyst crystal lamp will be a great choice, as amethyst is the birthstone of Aquarius.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Lastly, Pisces, the most emotional sign of the water signs. They are also very empathetic and creative and love dreaming. A cozy, luxurious bathrobe or slippers would also make a great gift. You can pair them with soothing bath bombs as well. Don't forget to add incense and candles by the bathtub, creating a relaxing atmosphere. This way, they can also enjoy a virtual art gallery tour, making it another delightful gift option.

LITERATURE



Despair

Your voice in my head,
Replaying the words you said.
One last farewell from you,
Making me remember,
How starved I was before you.

A love so consuming,
Bleeding us dry.
Leaving me with,
Ghost of your smile.

Tell me, oh, great salvation,
Was it all worth it?
The heartache and suffering,
Was I ever worth it?

And I know in my mind, heart and soul;
You would say yes,
With your eyes closed and face open.
You would say yes,
With your sunny smile and holy grace.

You would say yes,
Even when facing the end of days.
You would say yes,
Instead of me, with no regrets.

Your voice in my head,
Replaying the words unsaid.
One last caress from you,
Forcing me remember,
How much I love you.

Ayşe Nur Beşiktepe

Seasons by wave to earth

I can't be your love
Look it is too trivial for you now
Maybe no one will notice if i disappear
But i'll
Pray for you
All the time
If i could be by your side
I'll give you all my life, my seasons

I can't be your love
Cause i'm afraid, i'll ruin your life
While the leaves withered away and grew
again
You have gone too far away
I'll be pushing up daisies and bring up all
the chances
To here

But i'll
Pray for you
If i could be by your side
I'll give you all my life
My seasons

By your side
I'll be your seasons
My love

Aybala Karagöz

Flowers Bloom

I am not one to talk a lot,
Yet I would even sing for you.
I am not one to notice much,
Yet flowers bloom because of you.
I am not one to love a song,
Yet the wind hums your name all along.
I am not to believe in fate,
Yet with you, life feels ornate.

Yeliz Nas

Kozy Korpesh & Bayan Sulu Day: Kazakhstan's Valentine's Day

While Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide on February 14th, Kazakhstan honors love and devotion on April 15th with Kozy Korpesh – Bayan Sulu Day. (Kazakh. Sulu, meaning “beautiful”) This holiday stems from a 13th–14th century epic poem about love and sacrifice.

The story takes place on the vast Kazakh steppe, where two close friends, Karabai and Sarybai, promise to marry their future children even before their birth. Unfortunately, Sarybai dies before his son is born.

As Kozy and Bayan grow older, they fall deeply in love. However, Karabai changes his mind and breaks his promise, deciding to marry Bayan to Kodar, a local hero. Despite Kodar's desire for Bayan's love, he discovers her heart belongs to Kozy and kills him.

To avenge Kozy, grieving Bayan resorts to a clever ruse. She promises to marry Kodar if he digs a well with spring water for her. Kodar agrees and begins digging, going deeper and deeper, holding on to Bayan's long braids for support. Unexpectedly, Bayan cuts off her braids, leaving Kodar trapped in the well, where he meets his end. At her late beloved's grave, the heroine of the legend takes her own life with a dagger.

A mausoleum dedicated to the heroes of this epic poem exists in the East Kazakhstan region, dating back to the 5th or 6th century. This gravestone is considered one of the oldest monuments in Kazakhstan.



Pride and Prejudice

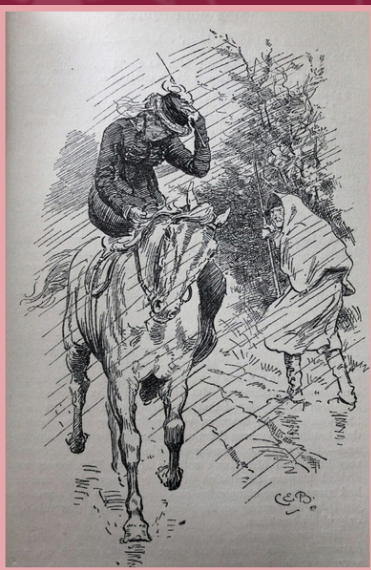


Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is widely regarded as one of the greatest literary explorations of love in its many forms. Published in 1813, the novel captures the romantic and social dynamics of its time, examining how love intersects with personal growth, societal expectations, and emotional maturity. Through the diverse relationships depicted in the story, Austen offers a nuanced portrayal of love, ranging from genuine affection and mutual respect to superficial attraction and pragmatic unions.

One of the central themes in the book is the transformative power of love. Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy's relationship exemplifies how love can lead to personal growth. Initially, Elizabeth is quick to judge Darcy as arrogant and aloof, while Darcy is blinded by his pride and sense of social superiority. However, their love story unfolds as both characters confront their flaws and grow emotionally.



Darcy learns humility and becomes more self-aware, while Elizabeth recognizes the dangers of forming judgments based on incomplete information. This mutual transformation demonstrates that love, according to Austen, is not just about romantic attraction but also about becoming better individuals through understanding and compassion.



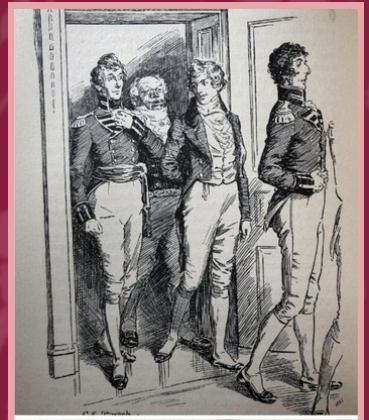
Austen also explores the tension between love and societal expectations. In the 19th century, marriage was often seen as a social contract, financial security and social status was more important than romantic affection. Through characters like Charlotte Lucas and Mr. Collins, Austen presents a pragmatic view of marriage. Charlotte marries Mr. Collins not out of love but for security. In contrast, Elizabeth rejects both Mr. Collins' and Mr. Darcy's initial proposals because she believes that love should be the foundation of marriage. She refuses to settle for less than a partnership built on mutual respect and understanding, challenging the norms of her time.

Austen contrasts genuine love with superficial attraction through various relationships in the novel. Lydia Bennet and Mr. Wickham's relationship, for example, is driven by a lack of maturity.

Their relationship serves as a tale, emphasizing the consequences of prioritizing physical attraction over emotional connection and shared values. Another example is the relationship between Jane Bennet and Mr. Bingley. It exemplifies pure and unpretentious love. Their gentle and kind-hearted natures complement each other, and their union is a testament to the simplicity and sincerity of true affection.-

-Effective communication is another key aspect of love in *Pride and Prejudice*. Misunderstandings and lack of communication initially create barriers between Elizabeth and Darcy. Darcy's first proposal, for instance, is marred by his inability to express his feelings without emphasizing his superiority. Similarly, Elizabeth's refusal is fueled by her misconceptions about Darcy's character. As the novel progresses, both characters learn to communicate more openly and honestly, allowing their love to flourish. Austen suggests that clear and sincere communication is essential for building strong and lasting relationships.

In *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen presents a multifaceted exploration of love, revealing its potential to inspire personal growth, challenge societal norms, and foster deep emotional connections. Through her characters' diverse experiences, Austen advocates for a view of love that is grounded in mutual respect, understanding, and personal authenticity. Her portrayal of love remains timeless, offering valuable insights into the complexities of human relationships and the transformative power of true affection.



Zeynep Yılmaz

Thousand

To be loved is to be seen
In the crowds, from a thousand of
thousands
To be seen is to be longed
In noises, from a thousand of thousands
To be longed is to be filled
In voids, from a thousand of thousands
To be filled is to be heard
In silences, from a thousand of thousands
To be heard is to be loved
In worlds, from a thousand of thousands

Aybalı Karagöz

The Windmill

I want to rot away,
Under the flowers,
Resting upon the meadow.
Where your ashes reside,
With the rest of my hope.
Close to a windmill,
Protecting us from the onlookers.
Creating a peace
Only for us.

I saw flowers blooming that day,
It was bright and sunny.
Sky as blue as your eyes,
And it was clear,
A mockery from the above.
Empty of any life,
Just like you.
Empty of any life,
As I am without you.
The burning pyre was the last warmth I felt
from you.
And I will cherish that too.
Just like how I cherished your coat,
Just like how I stole your wings.
I swear, I will,
Until I turn blue.

Bees were flying around,
Getting lost in different hues.
A flicker of a memory,
Making me yearn for one more chance.
A losing game.
I watched them until the sunset and some more,
Until I could see the constellations,
Shining in the midnight sky.
Too busy thinking about yours,
My mind goes blank of their names.
I never tried to learn.
Just thought,
You would be there to name them,
For me.
Showing my way,
Better than they could ever do,
Better than anyone could do.
Better than I could do.
So, I stood there, under the windmill,
And watched the bees, stars and looked for you

Couldn't see any shooting stars,
That still didn't stop me from wishing,
For better tomorrows.
For easier farewells.
For to rot with you,
Under the flowers,
Of a meadow full of you.
The windmill would be our tombstone,
And the stars as our witness,
We would rest, forever.
In this endless peace we created,
Together.

Together, under the windmill.
Together, once more.

Ayşe Nur Beşiktepe

The Endless Love of Eros and Psyche ✨

Without a doubt, everyone knows the story of Hades and Persephone. But do you know the epic tale of love and soul? This is the story of Eros, the god of affection, and Psyche (Greek: Psyche, meaning "soul").

The Beginning

Once upon a time, there was a king, who had three daughters. The youngest one, Psyche, was so beautiful that mortals started to worship her, mistaking her for a goddess. Aphrodite's temples were abandoned because of Psyche's beauty, Aphrodite became so jealous that she asked her son, Eros, to make Psyche to fall in love with the ugliest creature in the world, so that she would suffer and lose her beauty eventually. But when Eros pointed his arrow to Psyche, he accidentally pierced his heart.

The Prophecy

Contrary to what Aphrodite believed, Psyche was not pleased because of her fame between the mortals. She longed for genuine love, however the men who came to their palace were just there to admire her. Her parents, distressed by her plight, sought guidance from the oracle of Delphi.

The prophecy they received was grim: Psyche was destined to marry a winged serpent, a being more powerful than the gods. She was to be left on a mountaintop, dressed in mourning black, to await her fearsome husband. Heartbroken, her family followed the decree, leaving Psyche at the mountain as if to her death, then retreated to their palace to grieve.

The Mysterious Husband

Psyche, left on the hill, was carried by the gentle breeze by Zephyr to a beautiful meadow, where she fell asleep. She awoke near a magnificent castle and, guided by unseen voices, was welcomed with comfort, luxury, and music. Though Psyche never saw her husband, he treated her with kindness and love, visiting her only at night and forbidding her from looking at him.



The Doubt

Though Psyche was happy, loneliness and the inability to see her husband began to trouble her. Missing her family, she asked her husband to let her sisters visit. He reluctantly agreed, warning her not to let them influence her or it would ruin their happiness.

The next day, Zephyr brought her sisters to the palace. Overwhelmed by its splendor, they grew envious and suspicious. Despite Psyche's claim that her husband was a young hunter, they doubted her, believing he was a god or prince. Consumed by jealousy, they plotted against her, convincing Psyche that her husband might be the serpent Apollo had prophesied, intending to harm her.

Betrayal of Trust

Encouraged by her jealous sisters, Psyche decided to discover her husband's identity. One night, while Eros slept, she lit an oil lamp and saw his divine form. Startled by her betrayal, Eros fled, leaving Psyche heartbroken and determined to win him back.

Trials by Aphrodite

To reunite with Eros, Psyche sought Aphrodite's help. The goddess, still angry, assigned Psyche a series of seemingly impossible tasks. Despite the dangers, Psyche completed each task, often aided by divine interventions. However, the last task was much more dangerous than the others, Retrieving a box of beauty from the Underworld, which contained a deadly sleep. Desperate Psyche, visited Persephone, The queen willingly helped, and Psyche returned to Earth with the box. Overcome by curiosity, she opened it, but it contained only a deadly sleep, which consumed her.

The Happy Ending

When Psyche falls into a deep sleep from opening the box, Eros finds her, he gets the mysterious sleep off the girl and puts it back in the box. He then appealed to Zeus, who summoned the gods, made Psyche immortal by giving her ambrosia, and declared their marriage. Psyche and Eros lived happily in a palace filled with flowers. Even Aphrodite found peace, as mortals returned to worshipping her.

Keep in mind that this mythological story has a deeper meaning. Eros represents love and Psyche represents soul, so this is the union of love and soul, which makes the story much more meaningful and probably one of the best and pure stories from Greek Mythology.

Merve Koch





Day And The Dawnstar #3 by Herbert James Draper

Will You Accept Me As I Am?

Until I met this world,
I was calm, kind, and a child.
But all this world holds is a ruthless
fight,
I must bare my claws, sleep with one
eye at night.

Will you accept me as I am?
For some days, my face may frown,
My heart feels tight, uneasy, cold.
Perhaps peace I can not offer you at
all.

Will you accept me as I am?
Since heavy clouds will gather with
rain,
And if your heart beats my name,
you'll walk with me through their
strain.
Perhaps peace I can not offer you at
all.

Will you accept me as I am?
A light in my darkness, peace in my
soul,
A warmth on my hand when it is too
cold,
Could you be the one to make me
whole?

Yeliz Nas

What I Want

What I want is to be the one you hug
when wounds begin to recall,
To be your light when the burdens
fall,
To be the peace you look for in your
fight,
To be the warmth that wraps you on
your coldest night.

What I want is to kiss your tears
when they fall,
To be the loyal friend when the
world becomes a huge wall,
To be the ink in your pen with every
poem you write,
To be the one with whom you want
to fly a kite.

What I want is to be the smile on
your face,
To be your home, your safe, warm
place,
To be the sun that brightens your
day,
To be your dream that never fades
away.

What I want is to be the one you
share your bread with,
To be the one you gaze into and lose
yourself in,
To be the one who makes your heart
feel whole,
What I want, what I want is to be
your all.

This poem is written from a man's
perspective to his lover.

This poem is written from the woman's perspective
in response to the poem "Will you accept me as I am?"

Diary Entry #1

Not being able to choose when you only have options A and B, but also wanting to have options C and D and even E and maybe to Z... Just not being able to choose. Going all the way up in the rose garden to find the best rose but wasting all your time and focusing on finding the best. Thinking if there is a better rose in the vast garden for you to keep for yourself. Wandering in the rose garden, picking them all up, not appreciating them and throwing each of them one by one.

Wanting something or someone for yourself is okay, but being way too picky and not allowing yourself to explore new paths, even tiniest ones. It gets worse and worse. Not living life as it is just not to experience one bad thing. Not blooming just not to experience one rainy day. Being afraid of making one single mistake. Not writing just not to erase a word. Being tired of hiding and waiting instead of exploring the beauty of the rose garden. Not smelling the beautiful scent of roses just not to hurt yourself with a cactus spine.

I am way too tired of being in my own bubble all the time, but at the same time that bubble feels so safe that if I ever leave, I know I will suffocate. But I can not find the courage to pop that bubble and let myself suffocate for a couple minutes. The place I created for myself to not suffocate became the one that suffocates me.

Aybala Karagöz

Esther Howland

At the time that Ester Howland lived, women couldn't find a place to work in the business life. Known as the "Mother of the American valentine", Ester Howland founded her own card-making business and became a pioneer woman in history. Let's look at her life.

She was born in Massachusetts in a large house with 3 other children. Her mother was passionate about cooking; thus, she wrote a cookbook. Meanwhile, her father had a large stationary store. Inspired by her father's business and other's ambitions, she graduated from college and had the idea of crafting gift cards. Valentine's Day cards were popular in Europe in these years, but they were only available if they were imported to America, and they were too expensive for lots of Americans. She decided to prepare them in an assembly line and that was even before Henry Ford implemented the assembly line in factories. After the decision process and buying lots of products to create the cards, she hired women workers only to support the women's incomes. She gave the "New England Valentine Company (N.E.V.Co.)" name to her business. And the N.E.V.Co. started selling the Valentine's Day cards at affordable prices.



Starting as a small enterprise, it turned out to be a huge company with lots of customers, workers and advertisements. As a result, she not only became the first person ever to help Americans meet the Valentines Day cards with unique designs, but also paved the way for other women who wanted to get into business.

Hilal Naz Kula

Emma Goldman

Esther was not the only person known for her ideas about love. There was someone else with a different mindset but a same goal to empower women: Emma Goldman.

Being an anarchist, feminist, and writer, Goldman was known for her outspoken advocacy of workers' rights, free speech, and women's liberation. Emma was born in Lithuania in 1869. After emigrating to the U.S. in 1885, Goldman became a leading figure in radical politics, challenging capitalism, the state, and societal norms. Her fiery speeches and writings earned her the nickname "Red Emma." Let's embark on a journey through Red Emma's thoughts.

Most of us are prone to associate Valentine's Day with love, passion and affection. However, Emma Goldman thought of the unspoken side of this day, the capitalization of Valentine's day. Goldman believed that love and commitment in relationships should be strengthened not through gifts, but through equality and respect, which I definitely agree with. She imagined Valentine's Day as a day where love was celebrated free from societal expectations, allowing individuals to honor their true feelings. Believing that Valentine's Day distanced the celebration from true sincerity by commercializing love and romance, she thought that days like Valentine's Day should not only be seen as a romantic theme, but as a potential force for social transformation in human life.

Valentine's Day aside, Goldman's ideas were also against the traditional marriage, that too had an effect on her thoughts about the day. She argued that women should not lose their independence in love and relationships. This was a stance against the way women are often reduced to objects of consumption during celebrations like Valentine's Day. She was concerned about the passive effects of such days that could affect women negatively, which is not entirely a meaningless worry since the current trends and media are designed to take advantage of women and their insecurities. As conscious consumers, we are responsible for these days to stick to their meanings and to be celebrated properly. Credits to Esther, Emma and many other women who seek each other and contribute to the spreading of love. Valentine's Day or not, keep loving and stay being loved!



Let Me Drown of You

I want to drown in my tears.
One day,
If I get to meet you again,
Want to feel your hand on my face.
Drying me of my tears,
Cleaning me on my sins.
I long for your touch on me,
With a grace of an angel,
Like a graze from a lover.
I want it soft,
I want it gentle.

I want to drown in my blood.
Wish to see you again,
Either as an old memory in heaven,
Or forged by my dreams,
I want to take a chance.
A gun in my hand,
Pointed at a killer.
A face once familiar,
Sneering me from the mirror,
Goading me to bite the bullet.
I want it hard,
I want it violent.

I want to drown in your voice.
Want to hear your holy noise.
Holding me,
With a patience of a saint;
By your merciful hand,
I desire your taint.
I want to sin with you, sunshine,
Until we both see the fires,
When we close our eyes.
Until we both lose our wings,
When we share the winds.
Knowing,
With you by my side;
No blaze will hurt me,
Hell or alive.
Want to bless you like you blessed me.
Want you to ruin me like I ruined you.
I want it slow,
I want it blue.

I want to drown in you.
I yearn to rot with you.
Under the watchful gaze of God,
Buried in the heavy dirt of life;
Want to hold your hand,
As maggots eat our hearts.
Want to feel our bones touching,
To feel our flesh binding,
To feel our soul combining.
I need to make sure,
I know every part of you,
As you know every part of me.
I want it raw,
I want it intimate.

I want you to drown me angel.
As I keep drowning in your sea blue eyes.
I can't quench my thirst of you, angel,
You took the left over pieces of me,
And saw a beauty that no one could resist.
Instead of God,
I know only you as my deity.
For that;
My heart beats nothing but you.
The tears in my eyes,
For you.
The blood in my veins,
For you.
Rot of my flesh,
Cracks in my bones,
Pieces of my soul,
Love in my heart,
For you.
Belongs to you,
As birds belongs to the endless skies,
As wishes belongs to the infinite stars,
As prayers belongs to undeserving Gods,
I belong to you.
Only you.
I want it consuming,
I want it, my salvation.

I want to drown you.
As you keep drowning me with your endless love.
With your calming presence,
With your watchful gaze,
With your divine trust.
I ache to hold you,
And held by you.
I want to drown you,
In kisses and hugs.
I want to drown you,
In light and laughs.
I want to drown you,
In music and food.
I want to drown you,
In colours and life.
I want to drown you,
With silent rides and tender nights.
I want to drown you,
With a green garden and an open house.
I want to drown you,
With love from the bottom of my heart.
I want it together,
I want it forever.

Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre is a tragic love story about two people brought together at the wrong time, marked by the sacrifices they make for one another. Whether these sacrifices are justified is open to interpretation. At its core, it is a love story filled with loss, cursed by death, yet still makes you feel like things might have a chance in life no matter how bad the circumstances are. The story first begins with Jane Eyre who had a rough childhood. She was an orphan who had been looked after by her aunt who was a cruel woman. Whenever Jane does something, she does not approve of she locks her in a place called the red room. This room is important to her because it symbolizes the hardship and isolation she endures. Throughout the book, Jane keeps referencing the red room as a sort of trauma to her.

As an adult, Jane grows into a well-established, strong, and independent woman. She takes on the role of a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she meets the master of the house, Mr. Rochester. It is at Thornfield that their forbidden love begins.

Their love is forbidden because Mr. Rochester is already married. However, his marriage is deeply troubled, as his wife is a woman who has lost her sanity. Whether Mrs. Rochester is truly mad or a victim of her circumstances is a question for another time. The focus here lies less on her and more on the complex connection between Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester, a relationship shaped by the shadows of the past.

While Jane and Mr. Rochester's love flourishes the mad woman Bertha (formerly known as Mrs. Rochester) sets the house on fire. Unexpected from Mr. Rochester he tries to save everyone from the house including Betha but she tragically dies in the fire. And Mr. Rochester loses his eyesight and one of his hands. The loss of his left hand is rich with symbolism. The left hand was considered a sign of a bad omen and it was favorable to use in ancient times. The Latin of the word left means "sinister" while the word right means "dexter". In modern English application, the word sinister means "evil" or "ominous" while dexter becomes "dexterous" meaning "skillful". That's why he had to sacrifice his left hand to atone for his sins of the past.

The fire is a turning point in the story, altering the dynamic between Jane and Mr. Rochester. Once a proud and egoistical man, Rochester is now humbled and vulnerable, dependent on Jane's care. This shift in power breaks down the walls he once built. As a result, their relationship deepens, founded on equality and mutual respect therefore the beginning of their fresh start.



"Are you happy, Jane?"

Game Zone

Merve Koch, Ayşe Nur Beşiktepe

1) How about an emoji guess game? Let's find the best romantic movies and songs!

Movies 🎬

1. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 → ?
2. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 → ?
3. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 → ?
4. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 → ?
5. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 → ?

Songs 🎵

1. 🍷 🍷 → ?
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5. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 → ?

2) Let's play a 'Who Knows Me Better' game! You have four options to determine who knows you best: your family, your best friend, your partner, or no one!

1. What's my favorite color?
2. What's my go-to comfort food?
3. What's my favorite movie or TV show?
4. What's my dream vacation destination?
5. What's a habit I can't seem to break?
6. Who is my celebrity crush?
7. What's my proudest achievement?
8. If I won the lottery, what's the first thing I'd do?
9. What's my most-used phrase or catchphrase?
10. What's my biggest dream or goal in life?

3) Have you heard about the Secret Cupid Game? Well, this is a Valentine's-themed twist on the classic Secret Santa game.

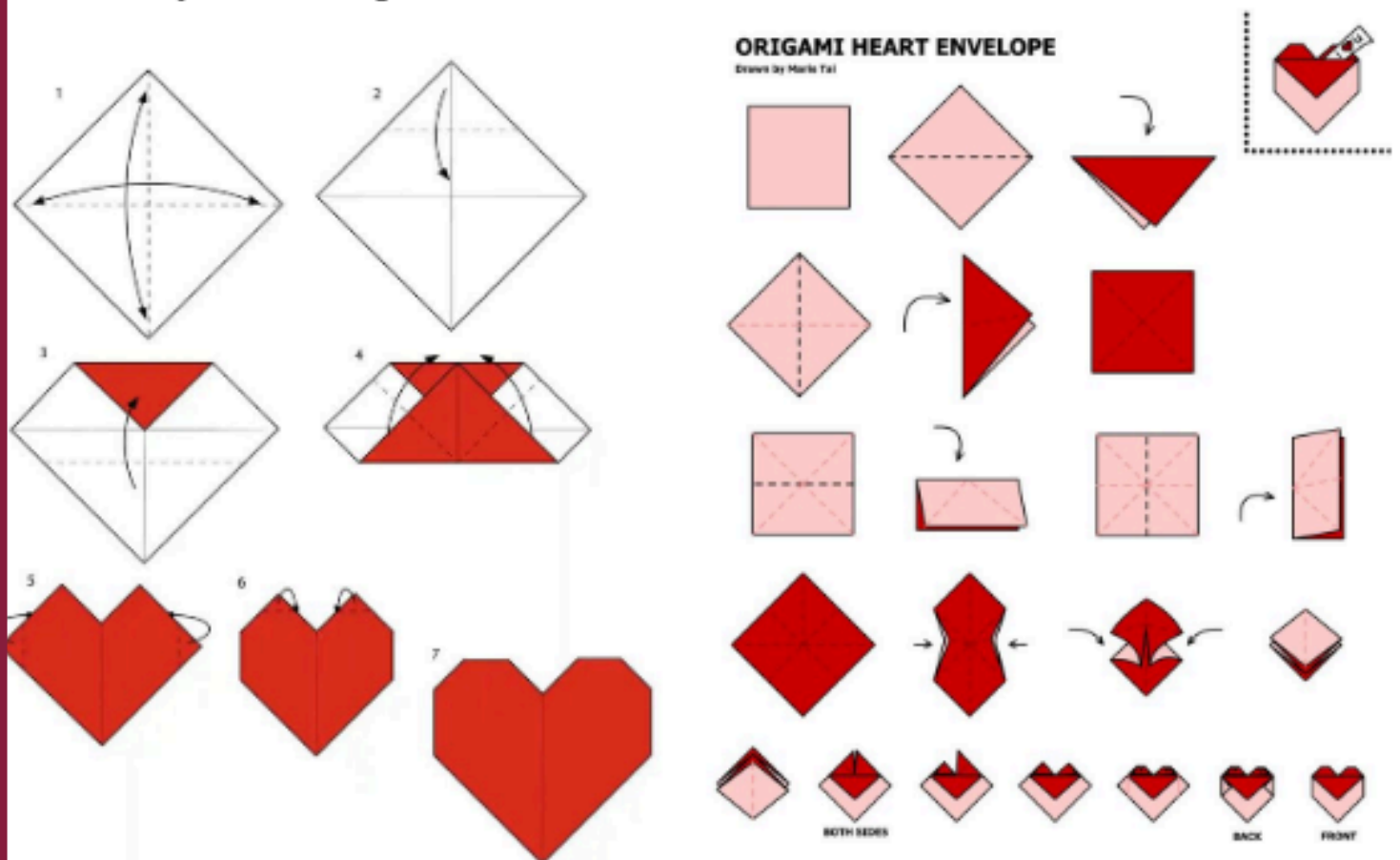
🎁 So how can we play it?

1. Decide on participants and decide a budget for gifts
2. Write each person's name on a slip of paper and draw names randomly.
3. Encourage participants to share a few interests, favorite things, or Valentine-themed preferences. This will help the "Cupid" (gift giver) choose a thoughtful present.
4. Choose a date for the exchange.
5. Each "Cupid" can leave anonymous clues or notes with the gift to make guessing fun.
6. On the date for the exchange, each recipient guesses who their "Secret Cupid" is before opening the gift. If they guess right, the Cupid reveals themselves.
7. If they couldn't guess the Cupid, the Cupid can give a small hint about themselves.

4) Now let's see how we will be spending our Valentine's Day! Here is a bingo chart, try to fill out as much as possible!

Valentine's Day Bingo!				
Drawing a Picture	Having a Coffee Date	Dancing Together	Sharing Inside Jokes	Taking Photos
Creating a Photo Album	Writing Letters	Watching a Movie	Giving Compliments	Writing a Poem
Eating Out	Holding Hands	Free Space!	Giving Flowers	Hugging
Planning a Fun Outing	Making a Valentine's Day Card	Cooking a Meal Together	Making a Craft Project	Exchanging Small Gifts
Planning a Picnic	Playing Board Games	Sharing a Laugh	Making a Playlist	Walking Together

5) On Valentine's Day we all know the value in even the simplest gifts. What is better than gifting a card you did with your own hands for someone important to you? Here is how to create an easy heart with origami!



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