

Don't Bite The Hand That Feeds You: Four Somethings to Keep Romance Alive

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Romance... what's the big deal? Chocolates and flowers, dinner and a show. Why do women flip for this stuff? Is "romance" even in a man's dictionary? I ask this because we men are dogs. And, what do dogs find romantic? Beer, power tools, and rawhide.

What? You claim you're not a dog? If you're a man, you're a dog. You can either accept it or shave your fur, walk on your hind legs, and hide your tail in the waistband of your BVD's. But, eventually you'll fall back to all fours, the tail pops out, and you get five o'clock shadow all over your body. If you've got an Adam's Apple, pump testosterone, and can grow facial hair, you're either a dog or a female guest on "Jerry Springer".

Okay, let's be honest. Dogs are not completely oblivious to romance. We've all fallen victim to the "R" word. Although we hate to admit it, we dogs have all attempted romance at some point. But, there's really only two reasons a dog is ever romantic: sex and points.

See, back in the day, when you were courting your woman, you tried to win her with what she wanted... romance. Be it candlelight, a bottle of perfume, or lingerie, you attempted romance for her sake. Why? You did it to land her in bed. Don't be ashamed. You're a man, a dog. We're born this way. It's out of our control. And, women know this. It's a trade off, romance for sex.

The other reason we dogs ever take a dip in the pool of romance is to accumulate points that will keep us out of the proverbial doghouse when we inevitably mess up. Example; you do something romantic (buy her a bouquet of flowers) so that you can store those romance points for later. Then, when you pull a "dog maneuver" (forget her birthday or something else a woman finds incredibly important), she hits your behind with a rolled up newspaper and yells, "No, bad dog!" But you smooth things over by reminding her of the bouquet. This keeps you dog-house-free for another day, which means you've got your place back in bed for another night. And, that, of course, means there's the possibility of finding yourself in the throes of hanky-panky, and we're right back to where we started... sex.

Assuming you've been with your woman awhile, the courting stage has probably passed. Romance is long gone, honeymoon's over. I don't care if you've been with her six months, six years, or six decades, sex is still a priority, isn't it? Keep this in mind, though... romance is still a priority for her. And, as we know, her romance is the catalyst to our sex. Therefore, if you want more "romping", you gotta get with the romance program.

There are quite literally thousands of ways to display your romantic prowess with a woman, but they can all be categorized into four simple “somethings”: Remember Something, Write Something, Play Something, and Do Something.

Remember Something

God, it's incredible, but women actually expect us to remember the most ludicrous and trivial bits of their lives, like their birthdays or anniversaries. Give me a break! What do they think we are, calendars with beards? We've got other things occupying our precious gray matter (the time of the game next weekend and whether to mow the front or back lawn next). But, if it will make them happy, if giving them the impression that we've remembered a couple of things about them counts as romance, might as well toss them this bone.

There are hundreds (maybe thousands) of things women would love for us to know, but they'll be satisfied if we can pull off these few.

You need to know her favorite:

- **Song** (always a good romantic move when you're in a quandary)
- **TV Show**
- **Restaurant**
- **Food**
- **Drink**
- **Perfume** (if you get her a gift that actually smells good she'll be incredibly surprised and turned on)

Also remember:

- **Her Birthday** (the year, too)
- **Anniversary Date** (wedding, first kiss, day you became steady, engagement... don't try to memorize them all, choose only one)
- **Clothing Size** (like the perfume, she'll be surprised if anything fits)
- **Parents' Names** (may come up in conversation. Not quite romantic, but great to keep you out of the doghouse)

Get this information. Write it down. And, make four copies. Keep the copies in your wallet, your car's glove box, your night stand, and a safe deposit box.

Write Something

Instead of just saying something warm and eloquent to your woman, write it down and give it to her. Spoken words are gone the moment they're blurted out, but if

they're written, they can last forever, and women are pack-rats when it comes to saving romantic stuff. This works to our benefit, because once the words are on paper, they can always be referred to, keeping us from visiting Fido.

What you write doesn't have to be an Elizabethan sonnet. She probably doesn't expect much from you. Just write her a love letter telling her you're thinking of her and how lucky you are that she's in your life yadda, yadda, yadda. If you're feeling daring, attempt a simple poem (avoid "roses are red...", over-done). Four or six rhyming lines is fine.

Can't write to save your life? Borrow some poetry. Here are a couple you can rewrite and sign your name to:

Guess who
Love you
It's true
I do!

At least there's one good thing
To look forward to when it comes
to growing old.
We're gonna do it together.

I know, not of the highest caliber, but if you're a beginner use these or check out a poetry book from the library and utilize the words of another poet. What? You wouldn't be caught dead with a poetry book? You don't even own a library card? Then, just pop in some CD's and write down the lyrics of some appropriate songs. Which leads us to...

Play Something

The right music at the right moment will give your woman tingles in places she had no idea could tingle. Women love romantic music. Watch them during an intimate time. Their entire demeanor changes as the music develops. Appropriate tunes add new levels to a romantic atmosphere, which, in turn, add loads of points for you. Romance = Points = Sex!

There are songs for every occasion. I've listed some here, but please do not corner yourself with this limited list. Go through your CD, tape, 8-track, or album collection. Listen to the radio. Keep your ears poised listening to lyrics. If a song works for you, use it.

Some General Romantic Songs

- Air Supply - "Lost in Love"
- Marvin Gaye - "How Sweet It Is"
- Joe Cocker - "You Are So Beautiful"
- Elvis Presley - "Love Me Tender"
- Stevie Wonder - "Sunshine of My Life"

Anniversary Songs

- Lionel Richie/ Diana Ross - “Endless Love”
- Eric Clapton - “Wonderful Tonight”
- Frank Sinatra - “You Make Me Feel So Young”
- The Orleans - “Still The One”
- Peabo Bryson - “Tonight, I Celebrate My Love For You”

Songs For When You Can't Be With Her

- Louis Armstrong - “Dream a Little Dream of Me”
- Klymaxx - “I Miss You”
- Richard Marx - “Right Here Waiting”
- Janet Jackson - “Miss You Much”

Songs To Get You Out Of The Doghouse

- Baha Men - “Where Did I Go Wrong”
- Platters - “I'm Sorry”
- Boy II Men - “On Bended Knee”
- Chicago - “Hard to Say I'm Sorry”
- Sam & Dave - “When Something Is Wrong With My Baby”

Songs For The Bedroom

- Color Me Badd - “I Wanna Sex You Up”
- James Brown - “Sex Machine”
- Inner Circle - “Tear Down these Walls”
- Tone Loc - “Wild Thing”
- Barry White - “I'm Qualified To Satisfy”

Do Something

Yes, do something. Everybody needs to do something. And, when you do something for her, that something becomes a romantic something. To “do” takes effort, and to women effort is often even more romantic than the end result. And, that something doesn't even need to be complicated or extravagant.

You plan on wishing her a happy birthday? Call the radio station she listens to and announce your wish on air. Want to give her a gift on Valentine's Day? Hide it and make a treasure hunt of it.

A birthday wish becomes a public display of affection. A Valentine's gift becomes a romantic event. Just putting out some creative effort will definitely pay off between the sheets later. You can come up with dozens of these ideas, but I'm leaving you

with a couple to get you started:

On her birthday send her folks a thank-you card for what they brought into this world (however many) years ago. Don't tell your woman you're doing this. Trust me, word will get to her. Tell her folks she's the greatest thing since screw-off beer bottle tops and you need to thank them for her.

Simple, yet incredibly affective.

Give your woman a sealed envelope that reads: *Don't open until you get to* (put an address here). *Arrive between* (put the hours here).

The address is that of some store you're sending her to. Don't mention the store's name! This adds a bit of curiosity to the adventure. The hours you'll list are the times the store doors will be open. Inside the envelope put a gift certificate or enough cash for something you know your woman wants at that particular store.

Inside the envelope stick a note along these lines:

Welcome to (store name),

I know they carry (the item she wants)*that you really want. Along with this note you should find* (amount of cash or gift certificate) *sufficient enough to pay for* (the item). *I hope you have fun shopping.*

Women love to shop. Dogs don't. This is perfect. You give her what she wants and you're not being dragged around a store with her.

Take these four "somethings" and expand upon them. Be creative, be original, but most of all be romantic. If you want more guidance, there are scores of sites on the internet. A few I recommend are:

- www.lovingyou.com
- www.rom101.com
- www.electpress.com/loveandromance/
- www.thirdage.com/romance/

These sites offer more poem, love letter, gift and getaway ideas, as well as advice on romance, relationships and sex. Also, check out books written by Laura Corn. They'll satisfy both you and your woman. Corn teaches romance through sexual relations.

Give your woman what she wants. You'll get what you need. It's been said that "Dog is man's best friend." Be sure that Dog is your woman's best friend, too. Don't bite. Don't shed. Pee on the newspaper. And, always stay out of the

doghouse. Ruff!