

GUEST COLUMN

Hey guys, simple things can show your love

Gentlemen, Valentine's Day is tomorrow. Do you know what it means to be romantic, to make a woman feel loved?

For some help, I contacted a circle of female colleagues and asked them to reveal some of the things that make them feel loved. Here is what they said:

Martha, an author and speaker from Brentwood, Tenn., said: "My husband has been a jogger ever since I've known him. When he comes home from his run, he always has a little bouquet of wildflowers that he has picked in vacant fields along the way. The flowers are free, it takes very little time to pick them, but I think it's one of the sweetest things he does to show his love. And the visual of him running with that little bouquet in his hands is very romantic."

Lael, an author and pastor's wife in Tomball, said she feels loved when her husband "puts energy and creativity into planning things to do together, instead of just leaving the social calendar to me."

Betty, an author and speaker



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from Newport Coast, Calif., said, "My husband knows that I am not a morning person, so he dresses and shaves in another bathroom."

And it was Cindy who said, "There are so many ways my husband makes me feel special. His good-bye kisses. His calls throughout the day. His help around the house. And the way he has patience with me and the kids. I have an awesome Valentine!"

So do I. My husband often shows up with flowers, for no reason. He cooks me dinner, and serves it by candlelight. He buys me dark chocolate.

And sometimes, he ends up being romantic, without even mean-

ing to.

Such was the case one evening when he went to Wal-Mart, after I went to bed. Since our time clocks aren't always in sync, that wasn't unusual.

The next morning, I discovered a new voicemail message on my cell-phone.

"Hello, Dayle," Stan's voice said. "This is your husband. I just want you to know that I love you. I know I don't tell you that often enough, but I do love you very much."

When I saw him later in the day, I said, "Aren't you sweet — leaving me a voicemail just to say you love me. What made you think about me?"

Knowing my husband is a romantic soul, I thought maybe he had seen some cutesy Valentine's Day lingerie and bought it for me, or maybe he had picked up the jacket I left on the couch and caught a whiff of my perfume.

He laughed. "You don't want to know."

"I don't?"

He looked sheepish. "I bought a

new headpiece for my cell-phone and wanted to try it out."

I had to laugh. Not exactly what I had hoped for, but look at it this way: Of all the people out there, he called me.

And better yet, instead of saying, "Hello, Dayle. I just bought a new headpiece for my phone and wanted to try it out," he said, "Hello, Dayle. I love you."

Now if that isn't romantic, I don't know what is.

So, what does it take to romance a woman?

With the generous help of friends and co-workers, I offer the following pointers on how to make a woman feel loved. This is not a scientific poll, but might be worth paying attention to:

1) Say something complimentary about her in front of friends or family members.

2) Bring home flowers for no special reason.

3) Walk by and kiss the top of her head, without saying a word.

4) Take her to a romantic play or musical.

5) Serve her breakfast in bed. (Coffee and a sweet roll works just fine.)

6) Tell her often how glad you are that she is with you.

7) Praise her for her talents.

8) Prepare dinner. The meal can be as simple as baked chicken and a salad. If you don't know how to cook, recipe books work brilliantly.

9) Hold her hand whenever you are out walking.

10) Leave love notes around the house for her to find.

11) Ask her to take a walk with you.

12) Tell her you are nuts about her.

As you can see, it doesn't take a lot of money, or even a lot of effort, to be romantic.

It's the little things that women notice most, and any man who pays attention to those is well on his way to becoming somebody's knight in shining armor.

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