

Valentine's Day
By Arthur Shapiro



A friend of mine, the world's most notorious cynic, once described Valentine's Day as a Hallmark Holiday supported by Godiva Chocolate. Which probably explains his multiple marriages and dateless life. Sure, it's a commercial occasion, but so what? It's also a day to celebrate romance and love. A day to tell your partner you love them. I know you should do this all year, not just one day, but having a special moment to reflect and show love is nice. Not to mention a good meal, if you're so inclined.

From Wikipedia:

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Let's take a closer look at this day from several perspectives — facts and fun.

Facts

1. At least two men named Valentine inspired the holiday, including one who was a priest in third-century Rome. As the story goes, this Valentine defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage (he thought it distracted young soldiers), illegally marrying couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death. (*History.com*)
2. In the 1300s, it officially became a holiday associated with love. At the end of the 5th century, Roman Pope Gelasius officially declared February 14 "St. Valentine's Day." However, it wasn't until the Middle Ages that the holiday became associated with love and romance. This tradition originated from the common belief in France and England that birds start their mating season on February 14.
3. The first Valentine was sent in the 15th century. The oldest record of a valentine was a poem written by a medieval French Duke to his wife in 1415. He penned this sweet

note to his lover while imprisoned in the Tower of London at just 21 years old.
(*History.com*)

4. The tradition of giving Valentine's Day flowers dates to the 17th century.
5. Americans spent over \$20 billion on Valentine's Day gifts, including \$2.4 billion on candy. We send 145 million Valentine's Day cards each year.
6. The Valentine's Day gift that people spend the most on is jewelry, close to \$6 billion.
7. Nearly 6 million couples get engaged on Valentine's Day.

For more of this, go to <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/valentines-day-ideas/a26863/valentines-day-facts/>.

Now, let's look at Valentine's Day's fun side with quotes about the day, romance, and love.

Q: Who sends a thousand valentine's cards signed, 'guess who'?

A: A divorce lawyer.

"I wanted to make it really special on Valentine's Day, so I tied my partner up. And for three solid hours, I watched whatever I wanted on TV."

Remember, your Valentine's card shows you care enough to send the very best, even though you're too lazy to put it in your own words.

"Valentine, just a few words to tell you how I love you. I have loved you since the first day I saw you. Whenever that was." — *Charles M. Schulz*

"Valentine's Day Money-Saving Tips:

- Break up on February 13th, get back together on the 15th.
- In place of a bubble bath, use the lavender-scented dish-washing liquid.
- Forget rose petals. Sprinkle the bed with sliced beets!"

— *David Letterman*

"Women with pasts interest men. They hope history will repeat itself." — *Mae West*.

"A guy knows he's in love when he loses interest in his car for a couple of days."
— *Tim Allen*

"Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your hearth or burn down your house, you can never tell." — *Joan Crawford*

“The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing—and then marry him.” — *Cher*

“I married for love. But the obvious side benefit of having someone around to find your glasses cannot be ignored.” — *Cameron Esposito*

“As a man in a relationship, you have a choice: You can be right or happy.” *Anonymous, May he Rest in Peace.*

Happy Valentine’s Day! 