

12 Days of Christmas Romance

By Michael Webb

Dear Michael:

We're spending the holidays with my wife's parents with our two children, (this is an every-other year occurrence). She tends to get very stressed out when visiting so I'd like to try do something every day during the 7 days we will be there to let her know how much I love her, but also give her something to look forward to everyday and take her mind off of my mother-in-law's constant meddling. Can you help me out with a 7-day strategy?

Thanks,
Gary
(M) 39, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Married 11 years

Dear Gary –

What you plan is a wonderful, thoughtful idea. You might consider expanding it even further to include the "12 Days of Christmas" theme.

Even though the 12 days "technically" begin on Christmas and go through January, you can start them any time you wish. Come up with ideas that are meaningful to your relationship. Here is just an example to get your mind thinking creatively.

On the first day of Christmas...

Buy your mate one box of their favorite cereal and lace it with lots of "prizes." Throw in some golf tees, Hershey kisses, toy cars or whatever would bring out the child in her.

On the second day of Christmas...

Take out your two engraved toasting glasses from the china cabinet and use them. Reminisce the day you first sipped from them. If you never had any engrave your own by buying some stencils and etching paste at a craft store.

On the third day of Christmas...

Have three meals together. You could go all out with breakfast in bed, a picnic lunch and a candlelit dinner. Better yet, spend less time preparing the meal and more time sharing it together.

On the fourth day of Christmas...

Put the pedal to the metal and four on the floor. Take a peaceful drive for the day. Go to county, sight see in the city or cruise around looking at Christmas lights.

On the fifth day of Christmas...

Fax or deliver a photocopy of your five fingers (plus the rest of your hand) to your love at work. Tell them you can't wait to be together to hold the real thing.

On the sixth day of Christmas...

Give her a half dozen of her favorite flower - one at a time. Leave one on the pillow, one on her car seat, one at the breakfast table, etc.



On the seventh day of Christmas...

Count your lucky stars by gazing into the 7th heaven. If the night is overcast, arrange glow-in-the-dark ones on the bedroom ceiling.

On the eighth day of Christmas...

Buy an 8 pack of crayons and together design and color a personalized coloring book of happy memories you have shared.

On the ninth day of Christmas...

Cats aren't the only ones with 9 lives. Take out your scrapbooks, photo albums or home movies and spend the day soaking up the sweet memories of your past lives together (adolescent, teenager, dating, engaged, married, parent) and then began planning for the future ones (empty nest, grandparent, retirement).

On the tenth day of Christmas...

Massage your sweetheart's aching shoulders with your ten fingers for ten minutes. Throw in a back scratch, a foot massage and a hair brushing if you are feeling extra generous.

On the eleventh day of Christmas...

Bake her eleven of her favorite cookies (since most recipes make one dozen, these will be bigger than usual - she won't complain). Stick a wooden skewer through the side of each cookie and then wrap the cookie in a colored plastic wrap. Place them in a box or vase as you would a dozen roses.

On the twelfth day of Christmas...

Present your sweetheart with a custom-made twelve-month calendar for 2000. Use personal photographs or your own drawings to make it unique. Highlight special days for the new year.

On the first day, you might consider giving her little clues (make them hard) to begin to whet her appetite for what you have in store.

You can find a lot more ideas in my book, [The RoMANtic's Guide](#).

Happy Holidays!
Michael Webb

