

Crazy For You

Our winner believes romance doesn't have to be expensive

Here is the winning entry in our Crazy For You contest as seen in A Minute With Mair. Thanks to all who entered!

A poor man's romantic Valentine's celebration.

This could be done with a little amount of money and a little amount of preparation. You will be surprised how romantic your mate will feel when realizing the preparation and planning you did. This means more than the overpriced cello wrapped flowers.

Recipe for a romantic evening:

1. Have Grandma take the kids (promise to cut her grass in the spring).

Your evening starts with Ice skating at Cedar Grove rink.

If you are not familiar with this spot - it is located on the 10th Line, south of Hwy 7. It is an outdoor rink set down out of the wind, surrounded by tall evergreens. Christmas lights twinkle around the perimeter as you skate hand

in hand to the sounds of soft music piped out over the speaker system. When your mate needs a rest, or to get warm, you take a break in the wooden chalet, taking a spot near the potbelly stove sipping hot chocolate that is always ready for you, served with a smile.

Once you have decided that you have had enough of skating, you go home to (and this is where some preparation is required):

A quiet house. Start the bath water running.

Beside the bath, you have your favorite refreshment chilling, fresh towels and robes and bubbles or your mate's favorite bath salts.

A few candles eliminates the need of the bright light of the bathroom. Candles cast only shadows which not only helps the romance but also hides any major flaws.

As you and your mate soak in the bubbles, warming up

after spending the last few hours outside, you enjoy your refreshments and each other's company.

Once the bath water has chilled, you retire to your family room which you have rearranged so that your couch and coffee table is in front of the fireplace (which is already stacked and prepared, just waiting for a match).

You have a couple of your mate's favorite movies - something romantic - Sleepless in

Seattle (leave Speed for another time).

The Chinese food arrives in half an hour. (You order this once, out of the tub, without her knowledge).

You eat, drink and chances are you don't see the end of the first movie.

Total cost including dinner and refreshments, is under \$50. Romance doesn't mean you have to spend money, just some time and thought.

Angi Pickering

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