



How to Sweep a Girl Off Her Feet!

In true girly romantic fashion, I have compiled a list of things I think every great guy who is trying to win the fancy of that beautiful gal should follow in order to capture her attention.

In those beginning stages of courting when you don't really know each other but want to make the best impression, there are little gestures that can easily swing the vote in your direction. With so many varying female personalities to please, a list could run ad infinitum and, that, my awesome guys, would not be fair to you! So, I set out to streamline the "dos" of courting. I allowed myself an afternoon of leisurely relaxation, laid-back and unhurried, away from the hectic pace of my office. I sprawled lazily in my backyard hammock, cleared my thoughts and began daydreaming! And, just for you guys, here's my list of the essential elements of courting.

Be a gentleman.

With the mad pace of our everyday world, it may seem like a lost art that only a select group endorses . . . it seems to be a fast-fading art amongst our generation. More than just the opening of doors, it's the daily heartfelt compliments, telling her she is beautiful (even if she is a sweaty mess after a run through the park), being sincere in your attentions, calling her for no reason at all but to hear her voice, being gracious and wonderfully nice around her friends, making her feel as though she is the center of your universe when you are together. Those sweet things require no deep pocket wealth, just that which you have deep inside.

Make her laugh.

I have discovered in all of the interviews that I have compiled, laughter is the one thing that attracts couples to each other. The special connection when you wink, grin and then say something that maybe only the two of you get...those shared moments of giggles are just as important as those side splitting, cheek hurting, eye tearing, "laughathons."

Flirt with her.

Let her catch you staring at her from across the crowded room. Give her that head tilt and smile that is directed just at her and watch her glow in response. Walk up behind her when she is not expecting it and give her one of those sweet, melting kisses on her

neck. Put your hand in the small of her back and direct her through a crowd. Give her that look that shows her that you think she is the most beautiful girl in the crowd.

Kiss her like you mean it.

Not the quick peck as you run out the door (although those are good in a pinch), but the soul melting, deep lingering, world halting kisses that some think only exist in Hollywood. Practice this on a daily basis (or whenever you see her). All kisses are not the same but they should all have that same passionate intensity. As you are leaving for work and she grabs your shirt to pull you back for more, when you are walking down the sidewalk and you duck into a stoop for a sweet embrace, when you crawl into bed at night exhausted from a long day and you both get that last glimpse of each other before turning off the light. Those are the moments for the breath taking kisses that will be on her mind during the dull, crazed, working too hard moments of the day.

Bring her gifts.

Not the bank-breaking types, but the bouquets of flowers, the handwritten cards, the book that has a topic that you were discussing, her favorite delectable delight, a CD of her favorite music. The occasional out-of-the-blue objects that make her realize that you think about her during those moments when you are apart.

Plan evenings that are just for her...in the comfort of your place.

Drop by your local gourmet grocery and pick up the makings for a great candle light dinner (no need to spend your whole night in the kitchen!). Put on the sweet, sexy tunes of your favorite music and have them playing in the background. Have a beautiful arrangement of flowers waiting for her, candles everywhere and a big sexy grin on your face when she walks through the door. After dinner, draw her a warm, delicious smelling bath and watch her melt away (feel free to join in!), finish it off with a great massage and a happy ending.

Plan time away...just the two of you with no cares in the world.

Dream big on this one and she'll be overwhelmingly surprised. I've always dreamt of the guy who looks at me and tells me to pack a weekend bag because we have a flight to Paris and it leaves in three hours (always keep your passport current!!). But there are also those times when you get in the car and drive to the lake, or out into the country, or check into your favorite hotel in town for the evening. Those fun, daring adventures that you experience together build extraordinary memories and carve special niches in the heart. You also get to relive your fabulous adventure as you relate it to your friends. Of course, they only get the edited version. The devilish look in your eyes and downward glances as you slyly smile at each other, will tell them the parts that you can't put into words (or don't want to).

Treat her with respect.

Even when she is doing something utterly ridiculous that you can't seem to fathom. Listen to those odd, crazy or brazen comments. Let her drone on for a few moments about the crazy happenstances of the day. Put up with those odd family members that seem as though they are of no relation to her. Stick up for her when someone makes an off color remark. Put your arm around her like that shield she sometimes needs but would never ask for. Do those protective gestures that make her feel cherished.

Surprise her with her favorite love song.

Without letting her realize how you managed to, discover that one song that melts her. Do it. Find the way with a crafty, stealth-like conversation (hint - this is one of the questions in the game!). Then play it at that one moment when you want her to realize how much she means to you. She'll melt in your arms, she may possibly tear up, she'll kiss you with unbelievable passion, and she'll remember that moment for the rest of her life.

Those are my lazy hammock thoughts on the subject. Guys - commit these to memory and watch the gal of your dreams become yours.

Happy Dating!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda". The script is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the name.

NOTE TO ALL OF THE GIRLS: print this out and leave it lying around in your house for your guy to read (we all need a reminder from time to time), forward this link to all of your best girlfriends so that they can do the same, forward this link to your best guy friends to help them out – they'll be indebted to you for life!