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# The social media mindset that can harm relationships

Anaiah Davis

Managing Editor

As Valentine's Day approaches and love fills the air, couples and singletons alike often share their dating experiences on social media, which can lead to advice that is both thought-provoking and misguided.

The rise of women using the phrase "If he wanted to, he would," on TikTok, and encouraging others to adopt this same mindset, can be especially harmful.

The popular expression is used to signify that if a man is not doing as he should in a relationship, he simply does not want to. In a Nov. 13 [TikTok video](#), user Ki Leroux [@kileroux] says, "You'll never have to ask a guy that loves or likes you for anything," and reinforces this message by captioning the video "If he wanted to, he would bookie."

This phrase seeks to remind women to not settle for less or put effort into one-sided relationships. Overall, a lack of romantic reciprocity is not exclusive to heterosexual relationships and applies to all types of romances. It means no one should beg their partner or potential lover for time, affection or attention.

It can certainly be applicable in the early stages of a relationship when two people are first getting to know each other. No one wants to beg for a text back or a date night, and if the person you're interested in isn't doing those things, then yes, it's possible that they just don't want to.

However, in a long-term relationship, it is unrealistic to believe that you never have to voice your needs to your partner. People get into relationships to learn how to love each other, so don't expect your significant other to know exactly how to meet your needs if you never tell them.

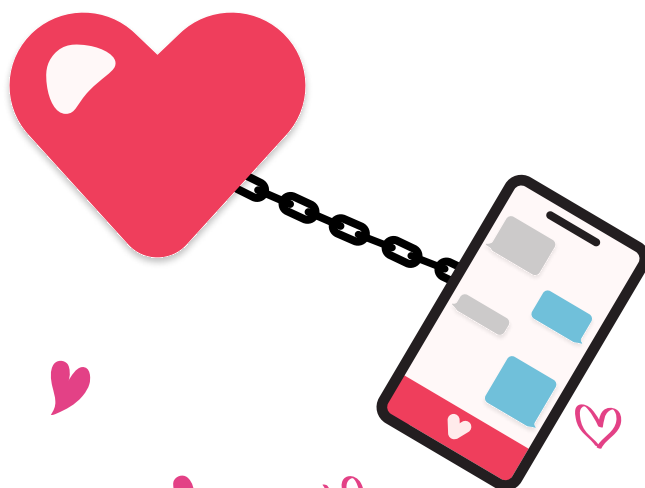
If you assume your partner is going to know that you like spontaneous dates, love letters or homemade gifts without ever telling them, you'll set yourself up for constant disappointment.



Once again, there are exceptions. If you have repeatedly expressed your needs to your partner and there is no change over time, then that could be an indication that they simply do not want to put forth any effort. It is ultimately up to you to analyze the situation and decide to either promote communication or leave a relationship that no longer serves you.

As well, "If he wanted to, he would" doesn't address the fact that sometimes, someone can want to do something for their partner, but doesn't know how or simply can't afford to. For college students especially, there are bound to be financial limitations on the types of dates you can go on. Don't assume your partner doesn't want to show you a good time because they can't afford a fine dining restaurant or an expensive hotel rendezvous.

While every relationship is different, each one calls for open and honest communication about each partner's needs and expectations. As Valentine's Day rolls around, take a break from TikTok and decide what your relationship, or budding romance, really needs.



# The Voyeur

## Bending Valentine's Day traditions

**Rodrigo Trujillo**

Assistant Voice Editor

For many, Valentine's Day is filled with romantic candle-lit dinners, smooth jazz and heart-felt moments. For others, it's jam-packed with dread. This passionate holiday can be daunting to those concerned about finding someone special to spend it with.

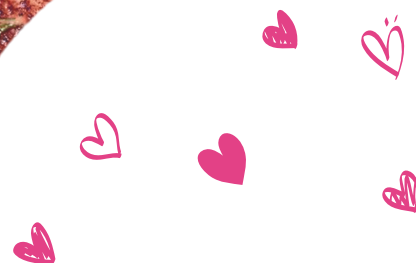
Since its conception, Valentine's Day has been framed as a holiday dedicated to a non-platonic pair of people looking to spend a memorable, romantic night together. But for those who find themselves single during Cupid's month, the holiday serves as a grim reminder of loneliness. It's not uncommon to feel inadequate when standing by yourself in a room of love doves.

But the truth is, we need to move past this restrictive and rigid interpretation of Valentine's Day. In recent years, many have pioneered a new interpretation of the holiday. While spending this day alone might make you feel like a loser, it doesn't have to.

Your decision to treat yourself to a nice dinner, movie and pint of ice cream is completely dignified. It's certainly better than making yourself feel bad about falling short of traditional expectations.

Embarrassed to be seen in public eating alone? Take a friend with you. Valentine's Day has been portrayed by the media to be a time dedicated to romantic partners in search of love or lust, but in reality, this holiday is about appreciation and an expression of love for others. It seems we often forget that love is not intrinsically romantic.

Platonic appreciation is not just an option we should haphazardly consider, it's something we should encourage for ourselves and others. So, the next time you're sitting alone in a room on your third pint of ice cream, just remember, it isn't sad. It's what Valentine's Day is all about.





# The Voyeur

## Five delectable desserts to make with your valentine

### Rome Tews

Voice Editor

Everyone's always worried about where to go or what to have for dinner on Valentine's Day, but what about dessert?

Baking doesn't have to be complicated, and you can make a cute and delicious treat from the comfort of your home with those you hold dear. Here are some simple ideas that will get your mouth watering whether you like sweet, sour or decadent desserts.

### Million hearts cheesecake

This [recipe](#) includes instructions for a simple cheesecake crust and filling, but my secret is to use premade cheesecake filling. You can still flavor it with vanilla or almond extract if you want a little extra flavor, which eliminates the process of having to beat and mix the cream cheese.

Now, a million hearts sounds complicated, but in reality it's simple. The coulis, commonly referred to as sauce, can be made with any fruit or purchased from the store. For maximum aesthetic, raspberries and strawberries create an Instagram-worthy pinkish-red heart. You just place the sauce in little dots around the cake and pull a toothpick through them in a spiral manner, creating a million little hearts on the surface.

### DIY boxed chocolates

Boxed chocolates can be found in supermarkets everywhere by Jan. 1. Consider transforming this common gift into something a little more special by making the chocolates from scratch.

Truffles, as boujee as they sound, can be made using just four ingredients, two of which are optional in the [recipe](#). The heart of a truffle is the chocolate and heavy cream, but butter and vanilla can add additional flavor and creaminess. After mixing and cooling the ingredients, any topping can be added like sprinkles or more chocolate shavings.

### Jelly love letters

This adorable [dessert](#) screams Pinterest and is easy to make, too.

Pre-made pie crust allows these flaky treats to be whipped up in a matter of minutes. Shaping the crust is the hardest part. You could make anything, but the little envelopes are just so sweet. A smear of jelly or jam in the center before folding creates the perfect little note sitting in the envelope after baking. Again, raspberry or strawberry provides a hue of pink or red, but any flavor is perfect, even chocolate.



### Love heart chocolate bark

Bark is an iconic part of the winter season, from peppermint to peanut, so add a new kind to your roster with this twist on a classic.

With another super simple [recipe](#), you melt chocolate in the microwave, swirl it and add candy hearts and sprinkles on top. Voila. The choice of chocolate is up to you, but to create an impactful swirl effect, mixing white chocolate with food coloring for that layer is recommended.

### Tangy olive oil cake

Olive oil and cake aren't two words frequently used in combination, but if you're looking to experiment, this is a good place to start. More complicated and equipment-heavy than other recipes, this one is a worthwhile commitment.

Blood orange, olive oil, rosemary and a classic cake all come together to make something truly unique. The first twist is creating rosemary sugar, done simply by blending the two. Next, this recipe will have you exploring the world of caramel-making. Using blood oranges and lemon juice mixed with a load of sugar is the perfect citrus-sweet to end the night.

### Honorable mention: Krispy Kreme donuts

If you aren't in the mood for baking, or don't have the supplies available, Krispy Kreme recently released their Valentine's Day donuts. Four fabulous flavor combinations are available to choose from, with something for everyone. Ranging from cake batter to strawberries and cookie dough, there is a donut for everyone to love. If you can't make it to a participating store, a limited edition half-dozen box featuring three flavors is available at Walmart, Kroger, Food Lion and Publix.



# The Voyeur

## Celebrities to crush on this Valentine's Day

**Madalyn Mirallegro**

Editor-in-Chief

Valentine's Day is a time for celebrating your loved ones. That includes honoring all of those celebrity crushes that fill up your folder of saved TikTok edits.

I have shortened my admittedly long list of celebrity crushes down to my top five, all of whom I will be celebrating this Valentine's Day.

### Jason Sudeikis

Jason Sudeikis is my number one celebrity crush, and that will never change. I first fell in love with him while watching "Ted Lasso" and immediately went to watch the majority of his filmography.

I can't quite explain what draws me to Sudeikis; it could be his humor, his iconic GQ photoshoot or that he shares a birthday with my boyfriend. All I know is if a screen has him on it, I will be sitting in front of it giggling and twirling my hair.

### Brie Larson

There are not enough words to describe how much I love Brie Larson. Her sharp wit and perfect acting truly seal the deal for me. Everytime I watch "Captain Marvel" or "Avengers Endgame," you can bet that I will spend the entire film only looking at her.

Not only is she gorgeous, but her acting is, once again, incredible. While many know her from the aforementioned Marvel movies, she also recently starred in the new Apple TV series "Lessons in Chemistry" where she stole the show and my heart.

### Josh Hutcherson

I've been a proud team Peeta member since 2012. Ever since I watched Josh Hutcherson in the first "Hunger Games" movie, I have been obsessed. His fake-to-real love story with Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss Everdeen made me extremely jealous that I couldn't be in Katniss's shoes.

Hutcherson is now making his movie renaissance, and my love for him has only grown stronger. I will soon binge all of his new movies just like I did with the "Hunger Games."



### Tom Glynn-Carney

Apparently I'm a sucker for blond British men who can sing and have ear piercings. I adore Tom Glynn-Carney, but he plays a rather awful character on "House of the Dragon." Glynn-Carney, himself, on the other hand, is anything but.

He completely owns every red carpet he steps on and I will admit that I have swooned over his appearances more than once. But what really gets me is a photo of him in the recording studio and the songs that he released with his band Sleep Walking Animals. Glynn-Carney's vocals are top notch and I could listen to him sing forever.

### Oscar Isaac

This is my formal plea to Marvel to bring back "Moon Knight" so I can see Oscar Isaac on my screen again. Isaac is one of my newer celebrity crushes, but that doesn't mean I love him any less. His acting range is extremely impressive and so are his looks.

I fell in love with both him and his roles in "Moon Knight" to the point that I named my car after his character, Marc Spector. It has been a while since I have seen Isaac act so it might just be time to watch a movie of his on Valentine's Day.





## The Voyeur

### One-on-One: Going out or staying in for Valentine's Day?

**Mason Klemm**  
Sports Co-Editor

**Ian Cunningham**  
Copy Editor

#### Go out – it's a holiday

Valentine's Day deserves to be celebrated, and the best way to do that is by going out with your significant other. Finding a nice – or even mediocre – restaurant, going to a show, seeing an attraction or dancing the night away are all great ways to spend an evening, and the trip doesn't have to break the bank.

What you choose to enjoy when you go out doesn't matter, as long as it's something both you and your partner enjoy. Being in each other's company should be the way you spend Valentine's, and the best way to do it is by having a good time out on the town. Use the day as an excuse to escape the stress of your life and cherish your relationship.

Going out seems like a no brainer, especially with the weather right now. Never before in my life have I been able to go on a walk or do anything outdoors for Valentine's Day without freezing. As of writing this, the forecast calls for 50 degrees and sunny – even more reason to enjoy it.

It doesn't have to be with a partner, either. While the holiday traditionally calls for that, there's no rule that says you can't have a friend or a roommate be your valentine. The two or more of you can do something exciting and it gives you a break from the monotony of spending time together inside.

While I can appreciate a good movie or board game, it's important to enjoy the celebration that comes with a holiday. You have your entire life to sit inside, but you only live once. Treat Valentine's like it's a holiday.

#### Skip the crowds, stay in instead

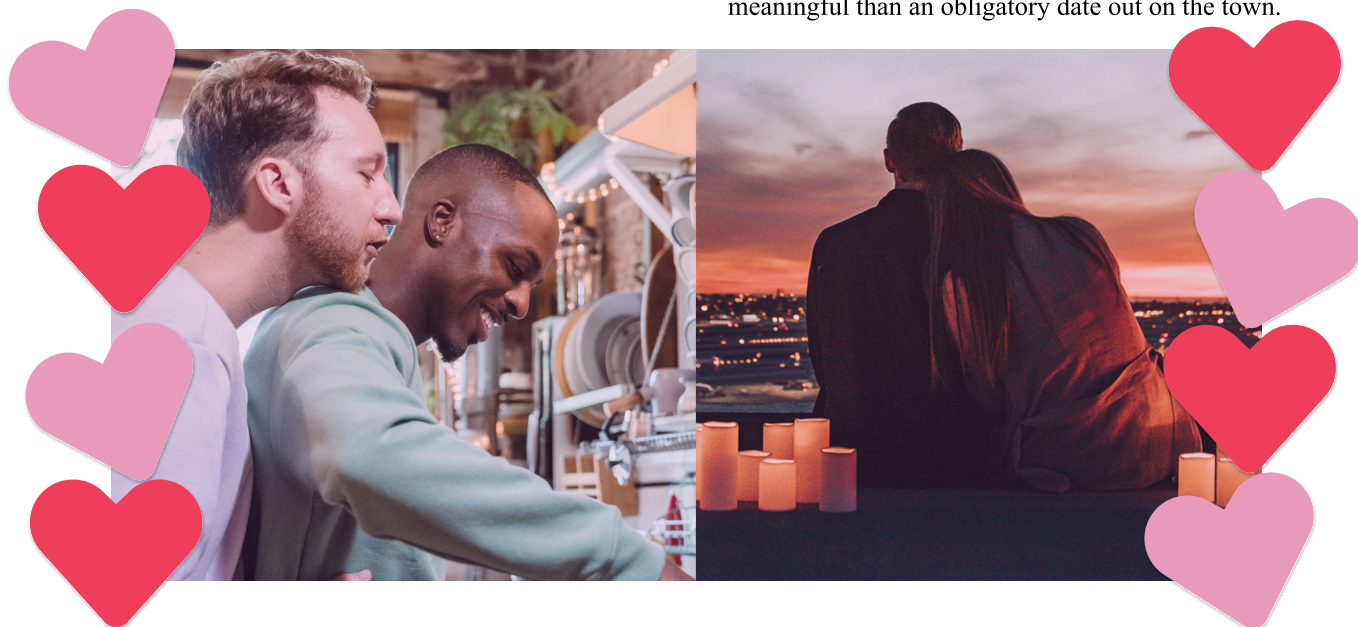
With Valentine's Day right around the corner, there's a lot of pressure to plan the perfect evening with your partner to celebrate. When we think of activities to do on this holiday, we usually picture a candle-lit dinner in a five-star restaurant or vibrant night out on the town. The glam and fanfare might look like fun in our favorite rom coms, but in reality, it tends to lose its luster.

Crowded restaurants, theaters and other date night locales are likely to be jammed up with couples relishing in the Valentine's Day spirit.

Instead of stressing over reservations and big plans, you can show your partner how special they are with an equally festive night in. Roll out some extra blankets and settle in for a movie night or invite some friends over for a game night. Whatever you do, it should be fun for you and your partner.

Gone are the days of needing to go out on a flashy date night to celebrate this love-filled day. Remember, the best way to show your partner you care for them is to spend time enjoying each other's company – and maybe throw in a heart-shaped food item if you want to preserve the traditional essence.

If you want a special night with your partner, you can also consider ordering takeout. Wouldn't that be better than going shoulder-to-shoulder with a hundred other couples at that one popular restaurant? If a fancy dinner is a must-have, avoid the Valentine's Day rush and plan a date night on one of the 364 other days of the year. A spontaneous date feels more meaningful than an obligatory date out on the town.





## The Voyeur

# Staff Picks: What are The Scout's favorite fictional couples?

A staple of many Valentine's Day celebrations is enjoying various romantic comedies and dramas. With that being said, there are many noteworthy couples in film and television throughout various genres. The Scout staff has compiled a list of its favorite fictional couples.

### Nina and Darius, "Love Jones"

Regardless of what anyone says about "Love Jones," I will always enjoy watching Nina and Darius' love story play out on screen. In the late 1990s, the pair meet at a Chicago nightclub and instantly connect. Darius makes his interest in Nina known by reciting a salacious and unforgettable poem titled "A Blues for Nina."

The charm of their chance encounter fades as they begin a passionate, but tumultuous, relationship. Some may say they're toxic, but I say they're young and in love and make human mistakes. My admiration for this couple comes from their willingness to try again and take a chance on love. The epic final scene in which Darius professes his feelings for Nina in the rain warms my heart every time.

— Anaiah Davis



### Chuck and Larry, "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry"

A bit of an outlier compared to others in this edition of staff picks, Chuck and Larry are a fictional couple yet not romantically involved. The 2007 film centers the life of a widowed Larry, played by Kevin James, who loses his life insurance because of the death of his wife. To preserve his benefits, Larry capitalizes off newly passed gay marriage rights to legally marry his best friend, Chuck.

Given the time period and their occupation as firefighters, the two are quite homophobic. Yet through their fraudulent marriage, they grow to understand the struggle of queer folks in society, ultimately embracing the LGBTQ+ community. From homophobic to homosexual, Chuck and Larry become influential and controversial queer icons.

— Rodrigo Trujillo

### Booth and Brennan, "Bones"

These two have a complicated relationship throughout the show that just makes me finish it and start over again. Like every crime show, the content of "Bones" is varied but overall repetitive, putting a focus on the characters and their interactions. Booth and Brennan start off as classic polar opposites, one a people's person and the other a total socially inert genius. Throughout their time working together though, they start to bond and find similarities within themselves and show the other their world.

Stereotypical perhaps, but it gets good when the two finally get together after six seasons and have a baby in season seven. Brennan then runs away with said baby, but she comes back and they get married in season eight and then are divorced in season 10. Let's just say this couple creates quite the workplace romance and drama.

— Rome Tews





## The Voyeur

# Staff Picks: What are The Scout's favorite fictional couples?



### Sydney and Carmen, "The Bear"

While technically Sydney and Carmen (Carmy) are not yet dating, many fans predict a perfect slow burn relationship in their future. Despite not shipping the two of them when the show came out season two and edits on TikTok have convinced me that these two will be the perfect relationship.

One of the most notable moments from the most recent season that had me convinced was when Carmy was having a panic attack and the only thing that could calm him down was thinking of Sydney. If I wasn't watching with my parents I would have been screaming from how cute the moment was. But since they aren't together yet all I can do is keep hoping that in the third season they will be.

— Madalyn Mirallegro

### Shawn and Jules, "Psych"

Although Shawn's relationship with Gus could be considered for this list, his fairytale with Juliet was drawn out just enough that it didn't feel too long or too short. Through his constant antics, playfulness and goofiness, Shawn finally got what he wanted from the moment he saw Jules in the diner in episode two. Then, he almost blew it.

Their back-and-forth and tiptoeing around their feelings for each other made for a nice subplot to follow in an otherwise episodic show. You just knew they would end up together despite all the times Jules pushed Shawn and his silliness away. And to think, she wasn't even a part of the original cast.

— Mason Klemm

### Percy and Annabeth, "Percy Jackson"

Ignoring the beautifully executed "friends to lovers" trope, Percy and Annabeth are kind of just built for each other. Their development into a couple isn't simple. They go through life-changing challenges both together and separately. Individually, they both have truly complex character arches that brings them together to have a great relationship arch.

Once their relationship is established, they truly dedicate themselves to each other. Not everything in life works out, and they keep it real. They treat each other as equals. At one point, Annabeth literally judo-flips Percy. They have their fights, they have their disagreements, but they still maintain a healthy, communicative relationship.

— Jessica Taylor

### Spiderman and MJ, "Spiderman"

The relationship between both MJ and Spiderman is one that possibly can't be matched by any other couple within both the DC and Marvel universes. MJ and Peter Parker (Spiderman) met while the two were just average high school students. Little did either of them know that both would embark on numerous adventures with each other, be it Peter Parker saving lives or Peter Parker even saving MJ herself from danger.

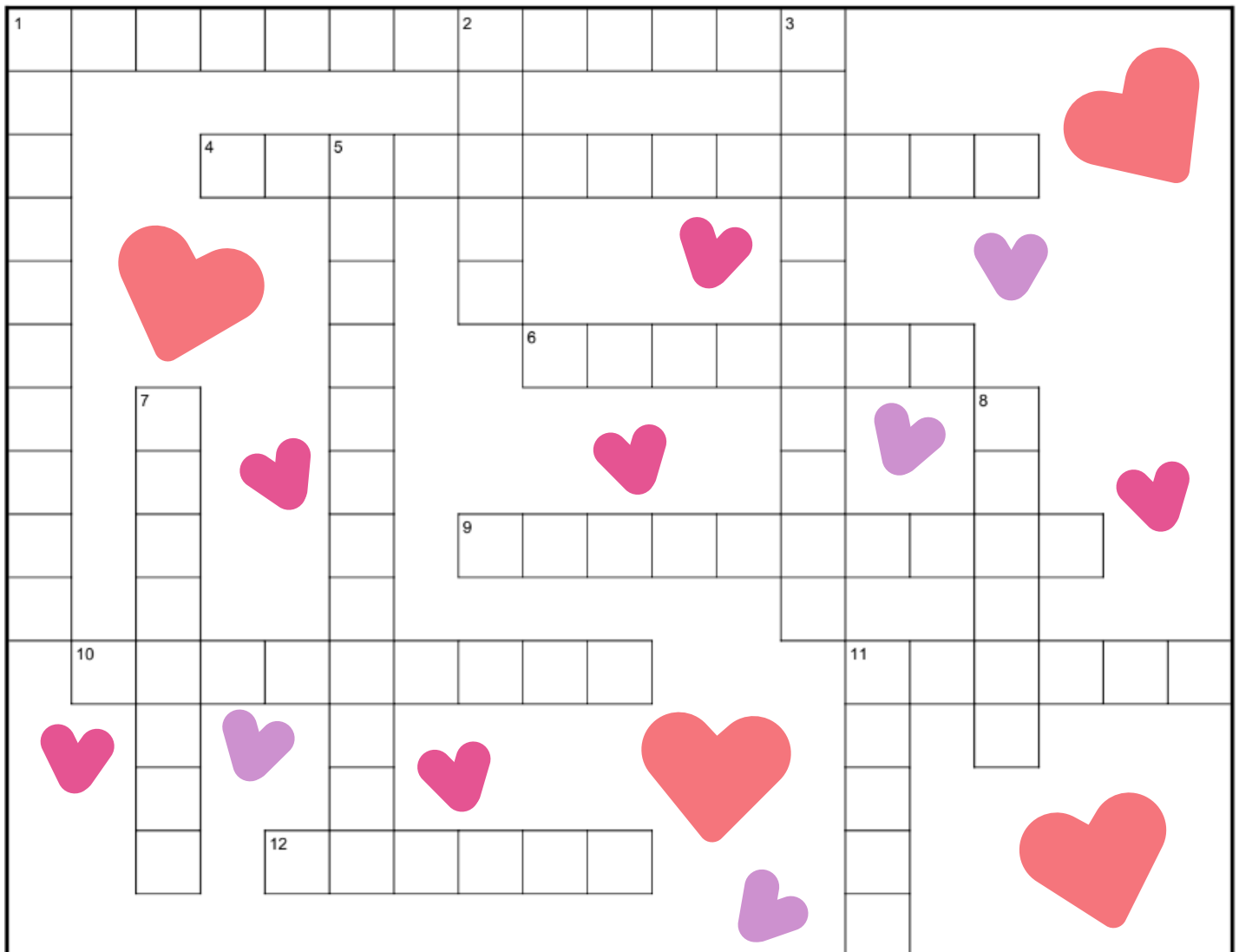
MJ would be one of the first few people to find out that Peter Parker was Spiderman. Rather than letting the public know about it, she would keep it secret and safe. MJ would also support Peter Parker throughout every adventure and mission he would have to go on and stay by his side through all of it. The amount of things the two of them go through and continue to stick through it, is why this is my favorite fictional couple.

— Davis Kinch





# The Voyeur



## Across

1. One who might send an unexpected love letter
4. Feb. 14 holiday
6. Bouche bestowals
9. Truffles and bonbons, for two
10. Cause for a table for two
11. Wicked mood setter
12. Conversation heart message

## Down

1. Charming endearment
2. What to do at a nightclub
3. Potential potpourri add-in
5. Complicated situation in a ROM-COM
7. Babe or Honey
8. "I think they're \_\_\_\_\_!"
11. "\_\_\_\_\_ Shuffle" (go-to wedding song)