

Valentine's Day 2026

By Matthew A. Michelangelo

Capitalism is in the air today. This Valentine's Day is especially telling. Even I was momentarily captivated by the inexpensive decor's masquerade. For a moment, Mikasa lemon rip-offs in China blue, stained with a lemon-stenciled print, lit me up like a Mediterranean-inspired homecoming. Thirty-dollar bouquets overflowing from their cellophane coffins, more beautiful than I've ever seen! I almost felt as if I were rich just looking at this over-priced, cheap shit.

Yes, capitalism is in the air, strong as ever this year. Even Cupid himself was fooled. He thought that perhaps this Valentine's Day, love would be a reprieve. However, the couple next door didn't honor him in any regard! No candlelit dinner, wine for two, no bed exhausted after the night is through. No, not this year. This year, the woman next door brought home a new girl from weeks prior. They had a hell of a time, from what I could hear. Yet, just like tomorrow, love slipped out the door before her boyfriend could come home with a rose from the corner store.

Oh, I don't feel strong this year. Penny-pinching, eating peanut butter dipped spoon for dinner, meditating to soothe the rage itching under my skin, everyone is doing the same thing over again! However, that is the only indication of how strong I've become this year especially. Regardless, holy fucking shit, I'm over it. I am tired; humanity is over. We must rebuild what's left from scratch. The Republicans claimed they are fixing it all, but they have a price that can be bought in the color of wasted pink champagne and children's genitals. The Democrats in the House swear that they will never stop fighting, so when the cameras turned off, they can go by some blood diamonds. This is America; your options are a wolf in sheep's clothing or the wolf itself. That is our government bleeding purple, no matter how divided the branches look.

Valentine's Day this year felt more like a last hurrah. I believe capitalism is afraid, and as a result, it pulled out all its tricks. Well, I ain't no rabbit in a hat, I see the rouge ruse, I see the chocolate-laced lies, every single day my cardiovascular system is arrhythmic, and I know why: America needs a miracle, but isn't going to be tonight, because truth be told were lazy, we only like to entertain things if nothing really will happen after. We aren't brave; we are very scared, so we fight each other instead of the 1%ers who eat, r*pe, and k*ll children. Eletist that started a pandemic and will do it again. The Government that will blow up major dams to keep the cities in check and scared. We need to walk up and keep fighting.

But thank God Almighty that Valentine's Day is here or whatever. No one is listening anyway, not even God "himself."