

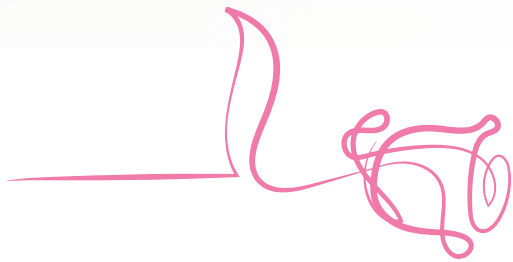
A close-up, profile view of a Black woman's face, looking upwards and to the left. Her skin is dark and has a natural, dewy texture. Several pink carnations are tucked behind her ear and along her jawline, adding a soft, romantic feel to the portrait. The background is a plain, light color.

THE *Love Gift*

GUIDE

BY NATALIE A. COLLIER

FEBRUARY 2022



*Giving gifts is one of
my favorite things to do.*

And giving gifts during a holiday centered on love, especially when you're not focused solely on romantic love, is fun. This kind of love and gift giving is just as much about the things you love, as it is about what kind of things your friends, partner and mama 'nem like. So get into it! And do what feels good for you this Valentine's Day.

—NATALIE A. COLLIER,
Founder & President, The Lighthouse | Black Girl Projects

The Love Gift Guide

The Love Gift Guide



If you have a real love,

like the one Mary J. Blige was searching for (found and lost again, doggone that Kendu), if you do nothing else, you must give them a card. It doesn't matter if it's going to get thrown in the trash a week later, like a bouquet of flowers. It just doesn't. Cards are a must. **Quirky cards** are superior. ATLiens and those who love them know what it is. **\$5**

quirky cards

The Love Gift Guide



A lighter isn't just a lighter anymore.

And if you're going to have candles, like this Jasmine Wade **Chill Pill (\$25)** one for aroma and atmosphere, get yourself a **rechargeable lighter**. Not only are they cute (a sentence you thought you'd never hear) but they're kinder to the Earth. Who doesn't want that? This one is from that warehouse with questionable practices, which I've tried to stay away from on this list. But gives you a sense of what I'm talking about for your trek to a local store. **\$11.99**

rechargeable lighter

The Love Gift Guide



Who doesn't want their nails done,
hair done, everything did on a special day with their
boo, friends or solo? And if we're doing it, let one of
the best get to our fingertips and get spiffed. Spifster,
a nationally recognized nail artist who's based in
Chicago now has **nail decals** for those who can't get
into her chair—pretty much anyone who's not a
regular. She's always booked. **on sale \$12.50**

nail decals

The Love Gift Guide



I adore novelty T-shirts.

The pandemic deepened that affection. I dress them up or down and buy them for people I care about often. Believe it or not, adding Tees to the list isn't even me taking an opportunity to suggest you buy Lighthouse merch, though you should. It's about this one. If you're single or ready to mingle, this **energy T-shirt** is for you. **\$20.30-\$26.60, XXS-3XL**

T-shirt - I
energy

The Love Gift Guide



I think every gift guide,

just like every lifestyle, should have at least one thing that's aspirational. I can't define what your aspirational thing is; yours is yours. It's très gauche to compare your aspirations with someone else's and they don't have to be static. One of mine is a **Chanel Maxi Single Flap** bag. Here's a secret, though, why buy brand new when you can buy consigned? Make sure your piece has been authenticated, of course, so you're not being taken advantage of—paying way too much for a counterfeit; and reduce your ecological footprint in luxury. P.S. I envision this as a gift to self before someone else. Call me selfish. **\$5,200**

Chanel bag

The Love Gift Guide



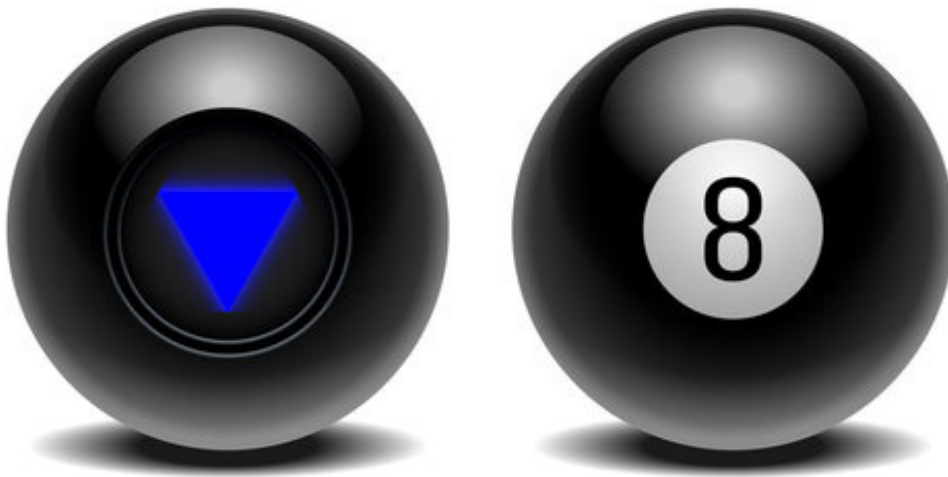
You may be wondering

how bell hooks' **"All About Love"** ends up on the same list as a Chanel bag. We contain multitudes. That's how. If you've read it once or never read it before, this year after Sister hooks' passing, is the perfect time to revisit this seminal work where she defines love and makes readers question whether they've ever really been loved before. Purchase this wherever you prefer to buy books (our preferred book seller is Marshall's Bookstore, a local, Black-woman-owned store on Farish St., here in Jackson).

\$15.99

All About Love

The Love Gift Guide



Do we have a future?

"Outlook good." Whew! Ladies, gentlemen and theydies, grab a **Magic8Ball**, a bottle of something sparkly and ask yes/no questions to your heart's desires this Valentine's Day. Will it be fun? "It is decidedly so." **\$9.99**



Magic8Ball

THE *Love Gift* GUIDE



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