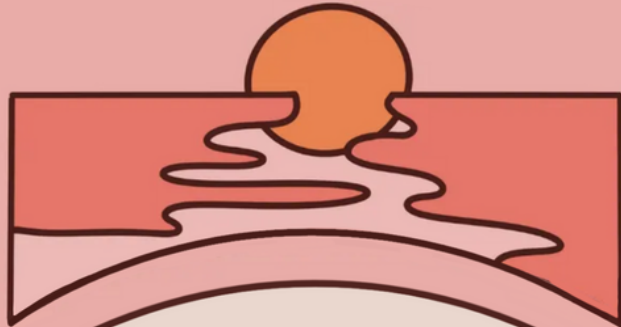




Valentine's beat 2024



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*In necessariis, unitas; in opinabilibus,
libertas; in omnibus caritas*

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Valentine's Beat 2024

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Valentine



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VOLUME 81

EDITORS' NOTE



TO OUR DEAREST CLEMENTINE,

What can we do to tame the heat of this fire? How long shall we wait until we finally forget you? But we confess before the futility of this endeavor; after all, you are the living epitome of a world coated in all of its hues, and we are just a shade of gray touched and forever a part of your radiating complexity. As time grows, so does our love—a love that transcends beyond mere moments of life. And if you're fading, we'll be fading too; bewitched by your beauty, we found ourselves growing old over you.

It's fascinating to see the impact of what one person can bring to our lives. Maybe this is rooted in its ambiguity? After all, relationships are dependent from one couple to another. However, underscoring ambiguity lies the challenge in relationships. Humorous as it may sound, we live in a 21st-century kind of love where the person who liberated us would be the same person to have caused our downfall, leaving us plummeting into the dark abyss of confusion, silence, and utter loneliness. Where are the antagonists? The white knight and its steed? Where then is the fine line distinguishing the two?

Yet amid such an actuality, we found ourselves continuously helpless for our Clementine—that making any effort to erase their presence from our hearts, ironically solidifies their existence even more. After all, we cannot deny that erasing a person from our lives would simply entail how each attempt is directed towards thinking of him/her. Day by day, we see ourselves wondering, missing, and longing for an immeasurable company that can only be perfected by our dearest clementine.

Love can be a strong word to say yet difficult to act on. It has myriad faces, each radiating a unique hue on the palette of human emotions. It can be exasperating, causing you both to say goodbye with words, yet leaving you feeling as if you have died a hundred times inside. Leaving you to blackness and emptiness – lost and desolate.

In another world, a beautiful story has blossomed, woven together by the scented aroma of a delicate and affectionate connection between two individuals. Their love story is one of small talks, nocturnal drives, midnight coffee sessions, and the gentle touch of one another – you are in love.

May this Valentine's Day bring you the gift of love, in all its forms – romantic, friendly, and familial. If you find yourself in an infuriating time, take this opportunity to celebrate and care for yourself, for you are worthy of love and kindness.

And if love should be thrown away, let it be thrown closer because, although I hate you, I will still fall in love, my Clementine.

About the cover

O, what a joy to experience romance! Imagine finding your Prince or Princess Charming, gazing at them with complete happiness, and overcoming all of the obstacles hindering your unfettered expression of love for one another. How magical it is to experience that! We grew up watching Disney movies that showcase romance in a typical "fairytale" light. The idea of falling in love, getting married, and living "happily ever after" is a perfect dream for some of us. However, reality stinks and that scenario may just only be a figment of our colorful imagination.

Just as much as love is defined in such a bleak and weary way, it is still possible for it to have a happy ending too! Finding our own "happy ever after" may be reaching our dreams, wading our way to the right path, and searching our one true love for some of us. Undoubtedly, we shall experience all the wonders that life has to offer. We must overcome the curses of love and make bold decisions in its name. Just as every prince bravely saves their princess, so shall we confront all obstacles with unwavering confidence. These are the obstacles you must face to achieve a life lived "happily ever after."

Cover by **Lourdes Ordoña**

Valentine's Beat is a special issue published by *The Bedan* every February to celebrate Valentine's Day. It's our way to get Bedans in the mood during this romantic season and to explore how they express love. This issue is a home to stories on life, entertainment, and culture that we believe readers must know this season.

Love isn't just about the flowers and chocolates we give and receive, but it is also the joy and connection to the people closest to us. To that end, this issue also covers real-life stories of Bedans not just in prayer and work, but in love as well, whether in their relationship with their significant others, their relationship with their friends or family, or just for themselves. So, we hope this special issue finds you well and that you celebrated Valentine's Day with joy and a love for everyone. Happy Hearts' Day, Bedans!

About the issue

Love in its purest form:

STORIES FROM OUR BEDAN MENTORS

▼ Paolo Ornos and Rizian Ballea

HEARTACHES, HEART BREAKS, AND UNFORTUNATE TIMING SEEM TO BE LOVE'S THEME FOR MANY. THERE'S NO ROADMAP, NO GUIDE IN FINDING SOMEONE YOU LOVE, SUCH THAT SOMETIMES, DESPITE ALL THE FEELING AND THE KNOWING THAT IT'S HER, IT TURNS OUT THAT IT WASN'T.

So, how do they do it? How were they able to find their love, their partner, their soulmate, their destiny? Bedans, let us indulge in our dear professors' stories of love, fate, and happiness.



PARA & PANA

ATTY. RUIZA TOLENTINO
AND
ATTY. REINIER RAZON
(DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL MANAGEMENT)

"We've known each other for 4,676 days," shared Atty. Reinier, who first met Atty. Ruiza on her birthday in 2011, both serving as student-leaders in the Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC). "And ever since, *biro ko sa kaniya, baka gift ako ni God sa kaniya*," joked Atty. Reinier.

Recalling their initial meeting, "feeling *ko siya nag-first move sa'kin*," teased Atty. Reinier as they shared the story of how Atty. Ruiza messaged him on his birthday exactly 11 days after their first encounter.

The couple revealed that, unbeknownst to them, their peers noticed their closeness before they realized their budding romance. "My friends asked me, 'Uy, *parang lagi kayong magkasama ha!*' 'Yon 'yung hindi ko napapansin,'" said Atty. Ruiza. "*Lagi kami magkasama pero 'di namin alam binibigyan na pala ng meaning ng mga tao*," Atty. Reinier continued.

"Crush *ko siya*," Atty. Reinier admitted, describing his partner as a leader, strong-willed, and independent, which captivated him. "Definition *siya ng conya, maarte magsalita, naka-messy bun, cute, 'tsaka mabango*."

On the other hand, Atty. Ruiza was drawn to her partner's friendliness. "*Ang bait niya sa lahat*. He makes sure you're comfortable, his humor, and from being with him, the sense of comfortability when you're with him you feel secured, and *isa pa*, most important 'yung patience *niya*."

These qualities, according to them, "complement" each other, and amid challenges, "always at the end of the day whatever the difficulty we experience, encounter it's always a choice, and we always choose each other," said Atty. Ruiza, reflecting on their 13-year strong relationship.

Atty. Ruiza also admitted that in their initial years, she wasn't ready to be in a relationship, feeling the pressure of being the youngest child. "After *n'on, hindi na 'ko nagtanong*," continued Atty. Reinier. Atty. Ruiza added that after that first question, their relationship became somewhat of a no-label relationship.

The former Legal Management department chairperson asked when the two finally became official.

Speaking more about the challenges of their relationship, Atty. Ruiza shared that Atty. Reinier's approachability and friendliness became an issue in their young relationship.

"Parang I wasn't special for him, since *parang ganon naman siya sa lahat, so ano ko?*" she pondered then.

"Paranoid *siya*, so ako naman sabi ko, 'papanagutan kita,'" said Atty. Reinier in sharing the story of how they came to be "Para and Pana." "All my paranoid thoughts, *pinapanagutan niya*," Atty. Ruiza added.

Describing their love for each other, Atty. Reinier calls her "home." Moreover, in managing their time for each other, both shared that they always make time for one another, make plans together, and treat each other's success as their own.

Finding common interests, discovering things together, and open communication are their advice to people in finding, being, and staying in love, allowing each other to grow while maintaining time with each other simultaneously.

"Be proud of each other," they implored others, telling couples to be the devil's advocate for each other while still being the biggest supporter of one another.

Moreover, while emphasizing that better communication is key, Atty. Reinier expressed the significance of saying the right words, stating: "It's not what you say, it's how you say it."

And for Bedans out there still longing to find their special someone, the couple advised them to "live, laugh, and love," as "there's always a perfect time for everything; if it is not for now, it will happen."





A LOVE THAT GROWS STRONGER WITH TIME

PROF. ZERNAN DE RAMOS
(DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP)

In a flash, from 21 years ago to being happily married for 14 years and counting, Prof. Zernan de Ramos recounts his story with Mrs. Kirby de Ramos.

“Nakilala ko siya noong 2003... sa government office, sa Department of Science and Technology (DOST),” said Prof. Zernan, reminiscing that “it was love at first sight.”

“Kasi ano talaga, hindi sa pagyayabang [pero] may looks siya,” he added, recounting the initial moments of their relationship when he was still making “ligaw,” taking in the form of small wholesome gestures while expressing his interest. “Dadala ako ng breakfast, origami – ta’s nandun may letter.”

“N’ung nakilala ko na responsible siya... hindi naman siya breadwinner, pero napansin ko ‘pag may concern ‘yung kapatid niya, siya ‘yung tinatawagan e, so nakakatuon on siya, gan’un, nakakatuwa siya,” added Prof. Zernan as he listed his spouse’s qualities which plucked his heartstrings to the songs of cupid. Four years thereafter, they eventually became an official couple—and in 2010, they professed eternal love in holy matrimony.

At present, Prof. Zernan and Mrs. Kirby have manifested this love into a happy family, sharing it with their two beautiful children: Zaiden and Zoe.

“Siyempre masaya, kasi araw-araw mo siya makakasama” he recalled, adding that while in comparison before, “for three years, officemates kami still within DOST, nagpalipat kasi ako sa ibang department... then [eventually] ibang company na ako, na-miss ko ‘yung araw-araw mong makikita [siya]...then n’ung kinasal na, ayun, nandoon ‘yung natutuwa ka na hindi ka magsasawa araw-araw mong nakikita.”

Like any other, the de Ramos’ relationship encountered its fair share of challenges too. Yet, throughout their journey, they discovered invaluable lessons that fortified the foundation of their bond.

Embracing each other’s strengths and weaknesses emerged as another component. Prof. Zernan emphasized that, “kung ano ‘yung mga weaknesses mo, alamin mo yung isa’t isa... kung dito ka mahina, allow her na siya ‘yung tutulong d’un... that’s the give and take.”

Expressing affection also became a priority as Prof. Zernan shared, “hindi pwede... na ‘pag may free time, ‘saka mo lang... ‘di dapat... magse-set talaga ng time.

Ngayon, dahil may anak na kami, I make sure na kahit pa minsan-minsan kami lang dalawa... ‘pag nasa school ang anak namin dalawa, pupunta kami sa isang—kahit pangit—na coffee shop, talaga kayong dalawa ay iisa na. May time ka na dapat ibibigay.”

Lastly, he is steadfastly committed to openness as he shares, “Walang taguan ng secrets, dapat talaga iisa lang talaga kayo.”



Concluding his story, Prof. Zernan left a few parting words to inspire those from the Bedan community in search of love:

“Wag matatakot na magmahal” he says; and for Mrs. Kirby, the woman who has held his heart for the past 21 years and into eternity, he imparts, “Kaya natin ‘to, mahirap man; may pinagdadaanan tayo... pasensya na minsan may pagkukulang ako... I love you.”

Beyond the brilliance and wisdom of our charming professors, their intimate narratives reassure us that even the sharpest minds can joyfully embrace the allure of romance.

So, as we bid adieu to these cherished love stories, let us remember the timeless adage, “Love knows no bounds.” Indeed, life’s most profound and soul-stirring lessons are often expressed in the language of the heart.

(with Nathaniel Soriano)

SELF-LOVE EXTRAVAGANZA: BEDAN SINGLES' PLANS FOR V-DAY

▼ Vida Ronquillo

THE HEART'S DAY IS HERE YET AGAIN. ALL THE BEDAN LOVEBIRDS MUST HAVE HAD THEIR PLANS LAID OUT FOR THEIR DATES AND ROMANTIC CELEBRATIONS. BUT AMID ALL THE CHEESY QUOTES AND ROMANTIC AMBIANCE THAT WILL INFUSE VALENTINE'S DAY, WHY DON'T WE SHED LIGHT ON THE SINGLES—THOSE NOT-YET-READIES, THE HOPELESS ROMANTICS?

As we celebrate love with couples today, let's also take a moment to learn about the exciting plans our single Bedan friends have in store. We're interested in hearing all about it!



THE GIFT OF GIVING

Amid all the hyped flowers or crochets given during Heart's Day, Shannen Bundang, a first-year student from the Department of Marketing Management plans to give gifts to a Bedan who's also single and is looking for someone this coming February 14. "*Alam ko maraming magbibigay ng flowers tulad ng roses, tulips, and sunflower or 'di kaya crochet. Sa 'kin naman gusto kong magbigay ng origami flowers... kasama na siguro 'yung panghaharana. Medyo old-school no?*" said Bundang on his traditional preference in meeting people.

Bundang, being a No Girlfriend Since Birth (NGSB) type of person, admits that "*Isa rin sa dahilan kung bakit ako single ay torpe ako.*"

For Bundang, it is all about the effort and not the price. "*... 'Di ko man ginastusan, pero pinag-effortan ko naman.*"

A HEARTY MEAL FOR ONE



Escuadra shared that the feeling of being unprepared mentally and physically to participate in a relationship is the ultimate reason why she is still single. "*Eh kasi ako, marami pa 'kong insecurities na kailangan kong ayusin kaya gusto ko pag ano pag pumasok ako ng relationship... dapat healthy.*"

Escuadra is all about self-love right now, ever applicable even on Valentine's Day, "*..., is-spoil ko like bibilhan ko sarili ko [sic] lahat ng mga gusto ko, gan'on.*"

Jamie Escuadra, a sophomore student from the Department of Political Science, plans to treat herself to a hearty Korean barbecue meal this Valentine's Day. "*Siguro ano... it-treat ko sarili ko ng samgyup (samgyeopsal),*"



DATE WITH FAM

Miguel Garces, another student from the Department of Political Science, considers himself fun and happy. However, he is still single, given he'd like to discover more about himself.

Initially, Garces planned to attend an orchestra concert and treat himself to dinner afterward. Still, the arrival of his relatives ought to change his itinerary, now focused on accommodating his family. "*...Ngayon, dadating tita ko... to see Intramuros, oh sige samahan ko na [sic],*" said Garces.

Garces then hopes to stay in a classy hotel with his aunt, saying, "[sic] Manila Hotel kami, tasa yon, shopping...those are my plans for this coming Valentine's."

A HEARTFELT PRAYER



The Bedan Pastoral Ministry's (BPM) President, Jestony Lumabi, believes that this year's Valentine's is special as it coincides with Ash Wednesday, a period in Christianity that marks the start of the Lenten season. In line with this holy celebration, Lumabi is looking forward to engaging in prayer, saying, "So, what would be the best thing to do is actually to pray, *kasi ano yan eh, kasi* double meaning *na ngayon yan eh*."

Lumabi believes that this "act of prayer" not only marks the season of Lent and a chance to change one's life. "Rather than na you go out there, doing nothing... so *mas maganda na mag-dasal ka, humingi ka, at may darating sayo*", he added.



A SENSIBLE NOTHING

When there is no problem in the first place, why fix it? Karl Bascon, a senior from the Department of Political Science, believes that there are instances wherein engaging in a relationship can become a hindrance to pursuing other endeavors, such as academics and responsibilities.

In this regard, Bascon plans to do nothing at all, citing the pressures of having a partner, especially on a day like this. "I've hated February 14 because if you're in a relationship, there is a kind of pressure coming from your partner, *kasi 'di ba*, you have to do this—there is a certain expectancy," said Bascon.

However, Bascon has a few things to say to those singles celebrating Valentine's alone. "Find yourself in a situation that, not only would lessen... your loneliness but would replace that with a certain kind of love that you'd feel is more wholesome than a partner."



FRIENDSHIPS AND SELF-CARE

Moleene Cruz, a first-year student from the Department of Marketing Management, looks forward to spending Valentine's Day with her friends. Even if her companions are busy that day, she will go on with her day by buying flowers for herself or visiting a museum or perhaps a cafe.

For Cruz, being in a relationship is not her priority at the moment, saying, "My study, friends, and my family, including my dog, are my priority." She is also wary of men due to cheating among personalities circulating in social media, "*...ang hirap magtiwala sa mga lalaki*."

Despite her single status, Cruz reiterated the need for treating one's self in Valentine's even without the need for company, "For the single ladies and gentlemen out there, it is your time to spend alone because it is fun I promise! You can be happy without the accompany [sic] of others."



ATTEND A MEANINGFUL MASS

Val Pura, a second-year student from the Department of Psychology, mentioned that he is not single by choice but because of the circumstances wherein most of his crushes have boyfriends already.

On his plans this coming Valentine's, Pura shared, "Usually *talaga* I attend mass *kasi* feast day *siya ng katukayo kong Santo, si St. Valentine*, and since it's Ash Wednesday, *magsisimba talaga ako... mag* Way of the Cross, *yun na 'yon*."

Pura then emphasized the importance of self-love before committing to a relationship. "You can not give what you don't have," said Pura.

From the insights of these Bedans, it is true that being "single" does not impede the enjoyment of any activity whatsoever (amidst the misconception that Valentine's is only for couples). Remember, Valentine's Day isn't just for lovers. Love is celebrated in many forms – with family, pets, friends, and self. After all, self-love is always the best love.

Such also begs the question, what are you planning to do this month of love?

(with Thirty Pabilico)

*Wishing you
love and joy!*
- The Bedan Volume 81



It Only Takes Five:

A BEDAN'S GUIDE TO THE LOVE LANGUAGES

▼ Ryan Julianne L. Monzon

Artwork by Rizian Veniz Balleta

EACH INDIVIDUAL POSSESSES A UNIQUE LANGUAGE—A DISTINCT MELODY EXPRESSED AND RECEIVED FROM A PARTNER, FAMILY MEMBER, OR FRIEND IN THE FORM OF LOVE. THE FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THESE DIVERSE EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE LIES IN THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES: WORDS OF AFFIRMATION, ACTS OF SERVICE, GIVING GIFTS, QUALITY TIME, AND PHYSICAL TOUCH.

This article will guide you in recognizing the five love languages of a Bedan, introducing you to fellow Bedistas who most prominently possess and express them. Each story tells a tale of connection, affection, and intimacy.

1. TELL ME SOMETHIN' I DON'T KNOW: WORDS OF AFFIRMATION



Paving the way for a semester filled with positivity and encouragement amid challenges and stresses, Jesus Leonard Tierra, a fourth-year Sports Management student, declared that the love language of Words of Affirmation highlights the foundational role of words in building and enhancing relationships.

In the spirit of new beginnings, Tierra emphasizes the importance of affirmations as a bridge to strengthen connections, setting the tone for a semester where words become catalysts for growth and understanding.



2. TO HELP A FRIEND AND SAVE THE DAY: ACTS OF SERVICE

A love language manifested through actions rather than promises enhances the spirit of volunteerism more effectively than verbal communication.

Francine Reyna, a second-year student from the Department of Psychology, excitedly shares that “it doesn’t matter if it’s platonic or romantic. As soon as I care about a person, I will do anything that can be ‘of service’ to them.”

Reyna also adds how growing up in a non-vocal household, where love was expressed through helping with chores or cooking for one another, has contributed to her development of this love language.

“I find myself enjoying doing things that can be convenient for the people I care about,” Reyna added.

3. IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS: GIFT OF GIVING

With the Christmas season having just passed, we, Bedans, have certainly received gifts from either friends or family; after all, it was the season of giving. Within the Bedan community, a special breed exists—individuals who find immense satisfaction in giving alone. These thoughtful souls invest their time and effort, ranging from elaborate DIY projects that consume hours to simpler gestures that are imbued with thought and meaning.

Wilart Marvee Dayaday, a first-year Sports Management student, shared, “If I want to show my appreciation for someone, I express gift-giving to people who have a special place in my heart and love unconditionally.”

So here’s to the hope that everyone has a Wilart in their lives, especially with Valentine’s now in our midst, a true gift giver will surely have a more thoughtful gift than flowers and chocolates.

4. DROP EVERYTHING NOW: QUALITY TIME

Entering the second semester in college brings a barrage of challenges—including hundreds of deadlines and meetings. But we, Bedans, stand resilient and we still choose to spend time with our loved ones despite this. This fourth love language opts to have us just drop everything and adjust our lives just to have meaningful quality time with our favorite people.

Timothy Gregorio, a first-year student from the Department of Psychology, explained that his most fulfilling part is having others enjoy his presence.

“I value people’s time because time is something a lot of people take for granted. Spending a moment with someone who values your presence is someone who values you.



I chose this love language because I want when people [choose] to spend their time with me. I want to make sure they have the best time of their life,” he pointed out.

5. TOUCH BY TOUCH: PHYSICAL TOUCH

In the vast realm of love languages, physical touch is a powerful communicator of both emotion and affection. A simple hug or touch from a loved one can be all it takes to reinvigorate our spirits. Zoe Tungul, a second-year student from the Department of Marketing Management, reveals that, as a personal experience, physical touch is not confined to specific moments but is a “constant thread woven into various aspects of her life.” Tungul utilizes physical touch to express her deepest emotions when words aren’t enough. “Considering physical touch as a love language means recognizing someone is most loved and connected through physical gestures, such as hugs, kisses, or hand-holding. I like those things; that’s why physical touch is my love language,” she shared. However, the second-year student also reminds us that we must recognize boundaries when it comes to this love language and ensure that the person we give it to is consenting and comfortable.

An act, service, or deep, meaningful word can foster a harmonious and healthier environment for each Bedan. By applying the principles of the five love languages, we can build stronger relationships, improve our communication skills, and help create a positive atmosphere that is conducive to personal and academic growth. Moving forward, we should all understand that the five love languages provide great insights into how we, as individuals, express and receive love. Recognizing and embracing these languages can lead to more fulfilling and harmonious interactions, enriching both our personal and interpersonal lives.

(with Elijah Danao and Jake Evangelista)

ARE YOU THE ONE?

DECODING THE SIGNS OF A RED AND GREEN FLAG BEDAN

▼ Francesca Zia Robles and Mika Isidro

Artwork by Rizian Veniz Ballesta

LOVE IS IN THE AIR AND BEDANS ARE LEFT PONDERING THIS AGE-OLD QUESTION: "ARE YOU THE ONE?" IN THE REALM OF RELATIONSHIPS, NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY OF LOVE CAN BE BOTH THRILLING AND DAUNTING.

So let us explore the signs of red and green flags in relationships, guiding Bedans to find genuine connections and long-lasting love.

RATING:



YUKI

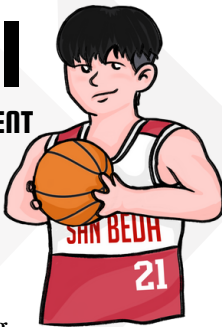
DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING MANAGEMENT

The Red Lions' recent championship run showed that Yuki is a green flag on the court, but is he also a green flag in his relationship? In the quest for a thriving relationship, Yuki swears by the power of green flags – those moments of understanding differences and genuine connection. Red flags like gas-lighting, blame-shifting, and trust issues are strictly off his radar. Luckily, he dodged the "red flag" bullet and can proudly label his six-year love story as "relationship goals."

He also stated that, while there are red and green flag moments, the green ones dominate the scene. The only red flags waving are basketball-related which would claim Yuki's time with his partner; but hey, love and hoops make a slam-dunk combo!

To answer your curiosity on whether Yuki is a red or green flag, he acclaimed: "Me, a green flag for sure, for sure, a green flag ako. Patient ako, maintindihin akong tao, 'tsaka... mabait."

Yuki then left a message to "red flag" Bedans: "Magtino na kayo! Hindi joke lang, pero try to be... as nice as you can be and be a green flag person."



JENICAH

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

RATING:



Unveiling the colorful spectrum of Jenicah's life to which red and green flags flutter beyond romance, extending their influence to familial bonds and friendships. In this vibrant tapestry, green flags unfurl as the positive traits we proudly showcase, while red flags dance in subjectivity, varying from person to person.

Jenicah passionately advocates for the transformative power of surrounding oneself with the right people. She proudly identifies herself as a "beacon of green flags," a testament to the unwavering support and guidance bestowed upon her by her cherished friends. Delving into the intricacies of her relationships, she fearlessly explores moments adorned with red and green flags, underscoring the pivotal role of "open communication and compromise" in nurturing a thriving partnership.

In a resounding call to action, Jenicah champions the twin pillars of "self-awareness and self-improvement." Her message resonates with the urgency of acknowledging and addressing our red flags for personal growth and fostering healthier and more fulfilling relationships. In Jenicah's world, the flags don't just wave – they weave a narrative of authenticity, growth, and the vibrant hues of human connection.



EMMAN

RATING:



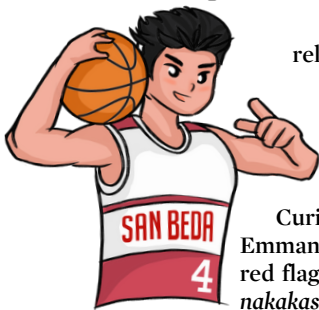
DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING MANAGEMENT

Meet Emman, the flag connoisseur of relationships! If trust issues are waving, - that's a blazing red flag for him; while thoughtfulness is a vibrant green flag that catches his eye. Having danced with the red flag of trust issues before, Emman's radar is finely tuned.

Curious admirers often wonder about Emman's flag collection. He admits, "Biggest red flag ko siguro [is] lagi akong late, hindi ako nakakasunod sa time, so time management ko siguro kailangan kong ma-improve."

And green flag ko, I think I'm a very positive person. I always look at the brighter side."

And to all the 'red flag' Bedans out there, Emman underscores that development is key, stating "embrace improvement and remember, perfection is a myth."



KRYSTELLE

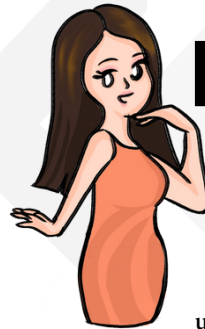
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

RATING:



In the world of love, Krystelle is no amateur. With a keen eye for emotional authenticity, she sorts through the red flags of "emotional unavailability and misplaced priorities," while celebrating the vibrant greens of "openness and mutual respect."

But she's no stranger to her imperfections, admitting to moments of both red and green flag behavior. Yet, Krystelle's mantra remains resolute: cultivate empathy and understanding, striving for the best version of oneself.



Drawing from encounters with the red-flagged, Krystelle rallies her fellow Bedans to ditch destructive patterns and chase after genuine love and support. Her rallying cry is clear, “it’s time for red-flagged individuals to face the music and nurture wholesome connections. Are you ready to join the revolution?”



TRICIA

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL MANAGEMENT

RATING:



In Tricia’s love lexicon, red flags are “caution signs,” signaling potential pitfalls in a partner’s demeanor. Meanwhile, green flags are the “radiant beacons” of a thriving relationship fueled by communication, trust, and genuine consideration.

Picture this: amidst the sea of red flags, Tricia sails on the ship of green flag virtues. Care, consideration and a deep commitment to understanding her partner’s feelings take center stage. Sure, there might be occasional storms of anger, but Tricia is all about navigating the complexities of personal growth and relationship self-awareness.

Sending a sassy shoutout to fellow Bedans flashing red flags: “Ano na? charot, keep up sa character development, please. Let’s be the best versions of ourselves. We’ll get somewhere if we are,” Tricia concluded.

AARON

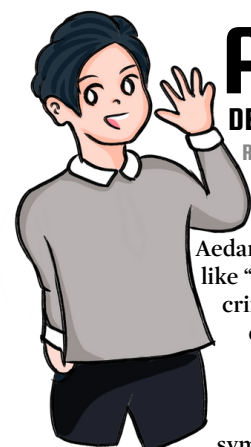
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL MANAGEMENT

RATING:



In relationships, red flag individuals are characterized by “self-serving behavior, lacking empathy and consideration for others,” while green flag individuals embody “selflessness and unwavering support.” Personal experiences, such as encounters with past partners, highlight the importance of prioritizing green-flag qualities like unconditional love and effective communication.

Aaron emphasizes “cultivating healthy relationships by embodying green flag traits, empathy, and self-improvement to avoid personal shortcomings from sabotaging future connections.”



AEDAN

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

RATING:



Aedan knows that the art of relationship success is like “spotting colors on a canvas.” Recognizing the crimson warnings like poor communication and dishonesty is vital for safeguarding emotional well-being. Yet, amidst the red flags, Aedan top dogs the vibrant greens of “effective communication and partner consideration,” symbols of maturity and support in relationships.

In his world, red flags may wave, but his focus remains on the flourishing green flag traits—growth and understanding. For him, a thriving relationship is built on “mutual respect, support, and joint efforts for personal and relational growth.” Aedan insists on discernment, self-awareness, and emotional maturity as the brushstrokes for crafting fulfilling partnerships.

MAURI

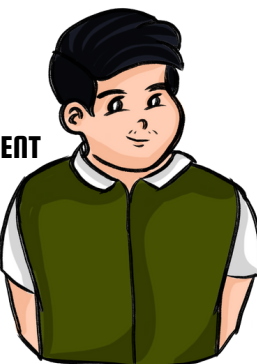
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

RATING:



Mauri’s take on red and green flags is a personal kaleidoscope - subjective, colorful, and uniquely his own. To him, red flags “unfurl” when someone doesn’t sync with his vibe, while the green flags he seeks in a partner are “woven with threads” of kindness and politeness. Mauri also shared that the “absence of a grand life plan” is a glaring red flag, emphasizing his belief in the importance of having a roadmap for life’s journey. Paradoxically, he waves a self-aware red flag, acknowledging that his allegiance to friendships precedes romantic entanglements.

He gives a message of change for the red flag Bedans, Sharing “to all the red flag Bedans, hindi pa huli ang lahat. May chance pa tayo makapag-redeem sa sarili natin, o siguro, may taong makaka-appreciate. Kahit ‘di mo kailangan... ‘di mo kailangan magbago or siguro kailangan mo lang ng ibang perspective para ma-appreciate kung ano man meron ka at kung sino man tatanggap sayo ng buong-buo.”



EDDIE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL MANAGEMENT

RATING:



Eddie distinguished red flag and green flag individuals based on their treatment towards their partners and understanding of boundaries. He described red flags as “lacking respect,” while green flags “prioritize understanding” despite lapses.

Even with his friends displaying red flag traits, Eddie isn’t hesitant to cut them off. He admits to red flag tendencies, influenced by his environment, yet still values care and effort in relationships.

“Mga tropa, 2024 na sana naman mag bago na tayo[ng] lahat. And alam naman natin may pagkakamali tayo, pero as tropa nga ‘di ba, we have each other’s back. So, dapat tulungan natin mag bago ang isa’t isa kasi hindi pwede na habang buhay ganito. Dapat maging better tayo in the future para sa pamilya natin,” he shared.

As Bedans celebrate Valentine’s Day this year, it is essential to approach relationships with a discerning eye. We can foster healthy connections that contribute to personal growth and a positive University experience by being aware of red flags and embracing green flags. May this Valentine’s Day celebrate love, self-discovery, and meaningful relationships with all of us!

7 ROMANTIC FILM AND TV TROPES TO CURE YOUR FEBRUARY BLUES

▼ D.S. Elijah N. de Castro
Artwork by Rizian Veniz Ballea

WITH THE SEASON OF LOVE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, YOU MIGHT FEEL MORE SENTIMENTAL AND TEMPERAMENTAL AS THAT FEBRUARY LOVE FEVER CREEPS INTO GIVE YOU THAT ITCHING NEED FOR A ROMANTIC MOVIE THAT GRANTS THAT DOSE OF KILIG, HEARTBREAK, HEARTACHE, AND WARMTH THIS VALENTINES.

Behind those films, the relationship dynamic of the main characters is what fulfills this desire. Romantic tropes have always been the major crutch of romantic films such as *Titanic*, *The Notebook*, and *The Vow*, just to name a few. These tropes drive our romantic fantasies so let us dive deep and discover what makes romance movies truly romantic.

“THE MORE YOU HATE, THE MORE YOU LOVE” ||

Yes, it is the most classic romance trope of all time. Due to the characters' dynamics, the enemies-to-lovers trope has always been entertaining. You know that irony where they hate each other's guts, but they just keep getting closer and closer together until Viola! They're now a couple.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen explores the theme of class divide through a romantic story of two people struggling with their pre-existing pride and prejudice.

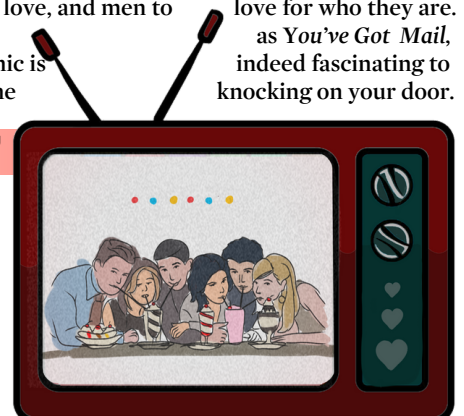
Elizabeth Bennet, the main protagonist, hated Fitzwilliam Darcy as he came from the upper class, which he also reciprocated. As the story progresses, Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy learn to relinquish their pride and prejudices, allowing love to triumph over all. In Jane Austen's novel alone, the effects of the romantic trope have influenced the rest of the world from its time of writing until the present day. This made people realize that women are free to be true to themselves and to choose who to love, and men to love for who they are. This quirky trope has made a mark in several pop-culture movies, books, and TV series such as *You've Got Mail*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Devil is a Part-Timer*, just to mention a few. This character dynamic is indeed fascinating to watch as we see the characters' pride and prejudices slowly fading away, allowing love to come knocking on your door.

|| “A FRIENDSHIP-TURNED-BUDDING ROMANCE”

It's cozy, heartwarming, and sometimes heart-wrenching, but when the friends end up as lovers, we realize that everything is worth the wait. Having friends turn into lovers reminds us that love is right before us this whole time, you just don't know it yet.

In the sitcom *Friends*, Chandler and Monica portray the trope where their close relationship evolves into a secret romance, leading to them moving in together, getting engaged, and eventually getting married and raising their adopted twins. Fans of the show admire their chemistry and their presence for each other during their ups and downs.

Having this happen in real life is one in a million for sure — even fiction proves this is difficult to pursue considering several factors. For instance, it's important to note how deep the protagonist's friendship is with their friend and how some viewers prefer the main character to end up with another love interest. Despite of all that, there are forms of media that take on this trope and execute it well, such as *Fight For My Way*, *Yona of the Dawn*, *The Cheat Sheet*, *Super Secret*, *I Cannot Reach You*, and many more.

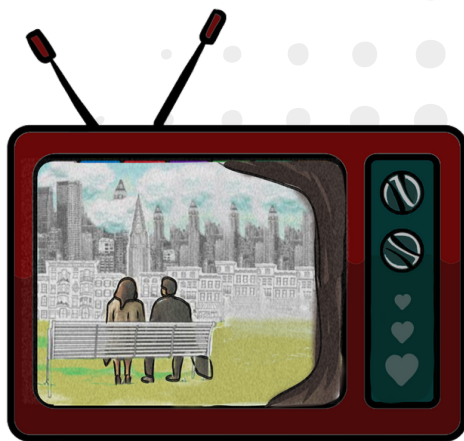
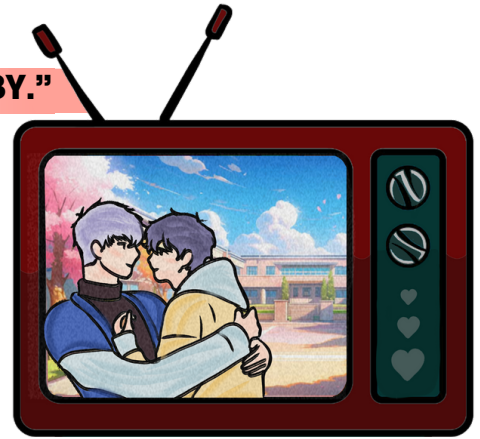


II "IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, BABY."

You have no choice. You have to be stuck together with... the person you'll eventually fall for?! This is the classical idea of the "stuck together" trope. It takes on many variations. Sometimes, the main character gets stuck on a stranded island with a co-worker, a friend, a stranger, or worse, their enemy. At other times, they have to be stuck around with each other because of their work or academic responsibilities. Still, the characters intertwining company provides the room for them to find their feelings for each other.

My Roommate is a Gumiho, a popular Korean TV series, narrates the story of a nine-tailed fox, named Shin Woo-Yeo, who wants to become human. He collects human energy in a bead, but a university student, named Lee Dam, accidentally swallows it. They live together to prevent Lee Dam from dying and losing his chance to become human until they find a solution. As time progresses, they then developed feelings for each other and start a romance.

This character trope, seen in works like *Cherry Blossoms After Winter*, *Not Here To Be Liked*, *Exactly Where You Need to Be*, and *She Drives Me Crazy*, shows how the protagonist behaves differently around their love interest. It explains how their love interest becomes a comfort space or how much they can't stand still with their presence.

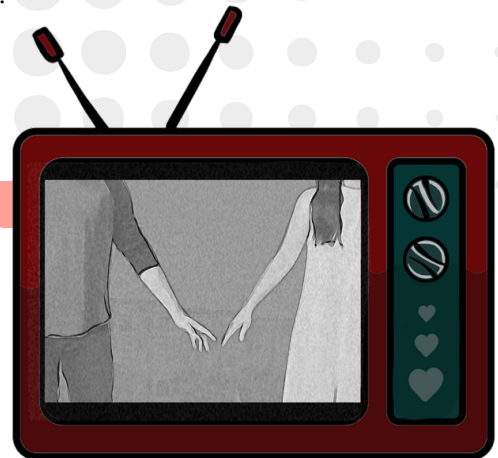


"THE BIGGEST QUESTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY" II

"Are you dating or not?" This question is dedicated to those people who seem to be in a relationship, but not really. This is quite perplexing as these people are found in a romantic situation without not having any romance involved, therefore having their status identified as a "situationship." Such an instance has become a trope in days of the recent past. The situationship trope is truly one of the most famous tropes of all time found in cinemas, books, and TV series.

Ang Kwento Nating Dalawa is a Filipino indie film portraying the situationship between Sam and Isa, who are stuck in a dilemma of whether or not the couple should commit. The movie resonates with those unsure about their relationships and whether love is worth pursuing at the wrong place.

500 Days of Summer, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Friends with Benefits*, and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* are just some of the films that may suit your itch for the situationship film you've been looking for so long.



II "LOVE IS BETTER THROUGH A SEQUEL?"

Some guru on the internet has always said something about love, here's how it goes: "Love is sweeter the second time around." What? Is it even possible? Well, apparently, yes! Others may argue that this isn't true, but different stories and forms of media have proved otherwise. Second chance tropes are genuinely interesting in storytelling narratives because they gave an idea that there's a strong history between characters, so much so that both romantic interests finally come to realize how much they value that person the second time around. The trope essentially focuses on the chance to rekindle their love for each other.

In most movies, the beauty of this trope is typically shown through the pair's love for each other. Then suddenly, a conflict arises leaving viewers to realize how the angst can either progress to become a hindrance or a motivation for the couple to get back together—perfectly posed in a setting where they could finally say: "Right person, right time."

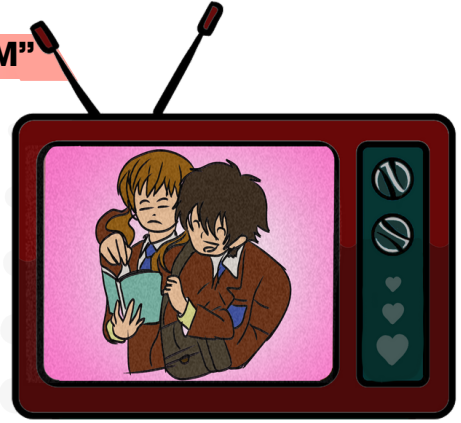
In *Always Be My Maybe*, a 2019 American romantic-comedy film, the protagonists, Sasha Tran and Marcus Kim, reconnect after 15 years. The two were former childhood friends who grew up in San Francisco next door to each other, and their friendship showed tinges of them being in love during their teenage years. However, they did not end on a good note after their post-sex argument. Sasha and Marcus, former flames, reunite when Sasha opens a restaurant in her hometown 15 years later. Despite their lingering feelings, they struggled to navigate each other's changed lifestyles.

Second chances are only given to those deserving — a part of a few 'what-if' scenarios turned into reality in another person's mind—What if I did this instead? What if I could have done that? The other way around?—These thoughts drive the trope, leading one to fix the past, which heavily resonates with people (maybe like you?). Other examples of this trope can be seen in *Starting Over Again*, *Love and Other Words*, and *Our Beloved Summer*.

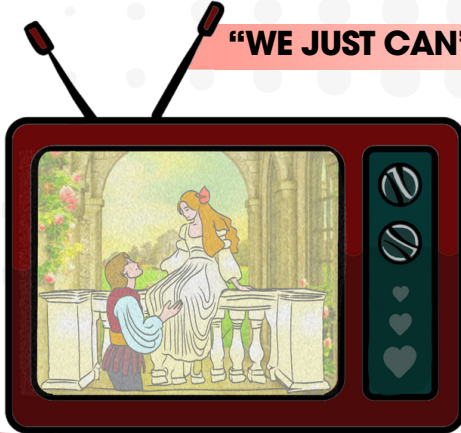
|| "FROM THE TWO ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM"

The yin to my yang, the sun to my moon, or the dark to my light is what this romantic trope is all about. This romantic trope proves the notion that opposites attract; the grumpy vs. sunshine trope which shows how two people from different worlds can fall in love. The sunshine person has a special impact on their grumpy love interest.

My Little Monster, also known as *Tonari no Kaibutsu-kun*, revolves around the story of Shizuku Mizutani, an academic achiever nicknamed "dry ice" for her unaccommodating, hostile, and cold attitude towards the people she encounters, and her relationship with Haru Yoshida, her very carefree and innocent classmate who kept following her after she delivered class printouts to his home. Ever since Haru kept professing his love for her, they go through the nature of their relationship and their emotions. Examples of this relationship dynamic include *Pretty Face*, *Grumpy Fake Boyfriend*, *Nice To Meet You*, *Miss Abbott and the Doctor*, and *The Duchess Deal*.



"WE JUST CAN'T BE TOGETHER" ||



For this last and final trope, we must acknowledge that there will always be a love that just cannot be. The forbidden love trope is one of the most famous tropes of all time brought by the one and only William Shakespeare.

Romeo and Juliet is a famous story of two star-crossed lovers going into a forbidden relationship. This situation may resonate with those who couldn't pursue their passion due to life circumstances. Following this, it grants another perspective of love, that of which entails the sacrifice of letting go.

A Walk to Remember and *The Notebook* are two romantic films, two of the most famous movies in its genre. Follow through with this trope and get ready to satisfy your forbidden love trope need.

So there you have it! The seven romantic tropes that Bedans should watch out for. And as we walk into the rosy-bricked road this month of love, we implore you, seek other tropes, find the perfect film, don't forget to pop up your tissues, assemble your snacks, and view the cures for your February blues!

(with Dianne Radel Magallon)



*"As time grows,
so does our love*



*— a love that transcends
beyond mere moments of life."*

▼ from the Editors' Note

Add to Playlist: It's Giving "Single" Vibes

▼ Veronica Balbin
Photos courtesy of Spotify

HELLO TO ALL THE SINGLE LADIES AND LADS OUT THERE! HAVE YOU MADE PLANS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY YET? IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN LOVE IS IN THE AIR, AND SOME PEOPLE ARE READY TO CATCH A SWEET SCENT OF ROMANCE DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

Oh? No date tonight? That's alright, what we have for you, our dear readers, are some tunes to make Valentine's Day a little less painful to be alone in a world of couples.



Maybe My Soulmate Died by iamnotshane

We're starting strong, and maybe the reason you're single this Valentine's is because your soulmate reached his/her demise. Kidding aside, this song rendered by iamnotshane will tear you up because you COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING.

Taken from the point of view of an indecisive persona, this song spirals into questions of what he could have done. He asks the "what ifs" and the "maybes," sending him into a pit of regret. So, when you guys get a listen on this, we hope you feel that regret too.

NOTHING! by Brye

Are you super anxious about what people think or say about you? Yes? Do you know what you SHOULD do? NOTHING! Brye's song about oneself brings out the worries of body image, comparison, and self-esteem. However, toward the song's end is a conclusion of posed in self-acceptance and self-love.

Surely, being single doesn't mean that you can't have fun. It's an opportunity to focus on yourself and your growth. If you can't find anyone to date this February, why not treat yourself to something nice? Take yourself out on a date and simply enjoy your own company. To set the mood, put this on your playlist of inspiring songs!



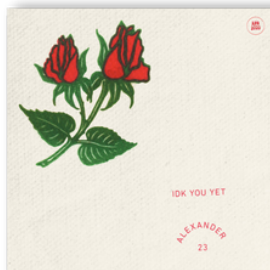
퀸카 (Queencard) by (G)I-DLE

Hear ye hear ye, Kings and Queens, for this humble scribe has a tune that might tickle thine fancy. Permit this servant to show thee down the runway for your royalty, because the K-pop goddesses, (G)I-DLE, will make you strut. Your. Stuff. Let them give you that body confidence with this banger. Celebrate yourself (don't go too over the top with this one) in your body's shape or form.

Have you added this track to your Royalty Playlist yet? You'll be an absolute Queen/King if you have! And if you still need to, what are you waiting for? Trust me, this song is S-tier material.

Yes, and? by Ariana Grande

Are you single this Valentine's? Yes, and? Mama Ariana got you covered in her newly released song to sing to your tita, tito, lolo, and lola. In her song, get that chill method of telling someone to get off your case, because you are you and they are they. If you're done with caring, just put your lipstick on, ladies and gentlemen, and be your best friend. Let's learn to love ourselves and respect our boundaries. Being single is not a crime, and we shouldn't force anything that isn't meant to be.



IDK You Yet by Alexander 23

Ever miss someone you've never met? Yeah, same. "IDK You Yet" captures the longing heart in great distress. College life is hard, especially when you're single, so craving the comfort of a partner you don't know yet to meet does happen. This song would make you wonder about the color of their eyes, likes or dislikes, and make you beg for them to find you now. If you're looking to mourn for a loss yet to be found, this is the song for you lonely birds walking through the campus with your head high.

The Cut That Always Bleeds by Conan Gray

"I don't love you anymore"—Do you adore that pretty line too? Then you're a recent heartbreak, and that's totally okay. It's the pain of a dragging love story that Conan Gray sings that ties a noose around the throat. If you're at that stage after walking away and want to put your heart and mind into a song, put this on your single playlist. When you've finally healed from this cut that always bleeds, I hope for you, Friend, that you can move on with your life and try again.



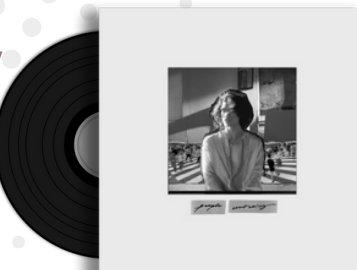
Dear No One by Tori Kelly

Hey there, to whoever may be reading this – I'm excited to share with you about Tori's 2013 song that still resonates with many today. It's a heartfelt ode to the idea of love, exploring the journey of a hopeless romantic searching for that special someone. As you listen, you'll be transported through time as Tori takes you on a journey through the present and future. With its optimistic message, this song will surely inspire you about the possibilities of love.

Guys, enjoy the present. The "one" will come someday to hold your hand, give their jacket to you when it's cold, pick you up, pull you close, and be yours.

People Watching by Conan Gray

Do you wanna feel all that love and emotion? The same ones you see around campus, at concerts, at parks? You've probably seen them wearing rings, talk of futures, and count the months together. Perhaps you're living vicariously through them, but you're unfortunately one of the people on the sidelines. "People Watching" evokes envy, longing, and hope. Embrace the loneliness and stay optimistic with this track on your playlist.



Falling Behind by Laufey

If you're a "NBSB" or "NGSB" person, you must feel like everybody's falling in love and you're falling behind. Friends and family around you are no longer single. Laufey will remind that you're not getting any younger the closer to graduation you are... and you're still not yet in love. Despite any woes, Laufey's upbeat song will lift your spirits with vibes akin to sunny fields of flowers.

It's Nice to Have a Friend by Taylor Swift

Sure, you might have no date for Valentine's, but you got your bestie. Taylor Swift wants to remind you, readers, that it's the small things that really matter. Hanging out, staying indoors together, playing video games, small notes. Maybe being single isn't so bad 'cause it's nice to have a friend. So, hang out with your friend, sit down, talk, while playing this song on repeat. Who cares? It's your moment together.



Wow, I'm thrilled to have taken you on a musical journey filled with ups and downs! Honestly, my ultimate goal was to provide you with a playlist to help alleviate feelings of loneliness or sadness. Remember, you're amazing and capable of doing anything on your own! Celebrate your independence, my friend!

ROMANCE IN THE WALLED CITY

DATING SPOTS IN INTRAMUROS

▼ Gian Marcel R. Chiu and
Daphne C. Zenarosa

Photos courtesy of
Gian Marcel R. Chiu, Daphne C. Zenarosa, and Prince Piolo Tagarino

GET READY TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN MANILA'S MANY LANDMARKS, VIBRANT CULTURE, THRILLING ENTERTAINMENT, AND MOUTH-WATERING FOOD. FROM STUNNING PARKS AND MUSEUMS TO CHARMING TOWNS AND MAGNIFICENT BRIDGES—EVERY LANDMARK IN METRO MANILA EXUDES THE RICH AND COLORFUL ARTISTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES. THESE ICONIC SPOTS HAVE BECOME A HAVEN FOR DATING AS THEY BEAUTIFULLY SHOWCASE THE COUNTRY'S FASCINATING HISTORY. BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE AND PEACEFUL ROMANTIC EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR PARTNER, ONE ATTRACTION STANDS OUT FROM THE REST.

Intramuros is a captivating tourist destination that offers a unique mix of remarkably preserved architecture, intriguing museums, and remnants of the city's rich history. Get ready to be swept off your feet at the incredible dating spots inside the Walled City!

📍 THE FORTRESS AT THE MOUTH OF PASIG RIVER

If you and your significant other appreciate the country's cultural heritage, this place is well-built just for you. Fort Santiago is one of the oldest fortifications in Manila, built by the Spaniards in 1571.

Inside Fort Santiago, you will first see the Intramuros Visitors Center, formerly the ten chambers of the Baluartillo de San Francisco Javier.



The visitors' center houses the information and audio-visual chamber, souvenir shops, and refreshment kiosks. On to the real adventure, the plaza is dwelled upon by old buildings that served as fortresses during the World War II. You will also see the Fort Santiago Gate and the Moat, the canal between Pasig River and Manila Bay. Once inside the gate, you will see the Rajah Soliman Theater, along with Chapel cell where Dr. Jose Rizal was imprisoned. Looking for the perfect coffee spot for you and your partner? Look no further!

Fort Santiago has just what you need. Head inside the gate and discover the delightful cafe, Papakape, on the corner of Plaza de Armas inside Aljibe de la Fuerza. The entrance fee costs Php70 for regular tourists and Php50 for students, senior citizens, and PWDs. Fort Santiago is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays; and 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.



La Cathedral Café is the ideal place for a chill and romantic date with your special someone. You can enjoy a scrumptious dinner on a rooftop deck decorated with hanging lanterns, not to mention the stunning view overlooking the Manila Cathedral. Moreover, the place is just perfect for taking astonishing Instagram-worthy pictures that'll make your feed look like you're in Milan or Paris.

Located along Cabildo Street, the cafe serves Filipino foods, pasta, pastries, sandwiches, and beverages that will surely satisfy your taste buds. Prices range at Php150 and Php700 depending on the food and beverage.

📍 DATES FROM THE WEST VIEW



TO A RELIGIOUS HISTORY, TOGETHER



Want to head back to the past and discover more wonders around Manila? Get your pen and paper ready because this place in Intramuros is one that will definitely fuel your excitement as we travel back through time to uncover the history of Christianity in the country.

In the Museo de San Agustin, you'll be welcomed by Spanish-inspired architecture, perfect for your Instagram posts. The warm interior is filled with artifacts and informative displays, making learning about history enjoyable and easy. Reading the facts alongside the displayed objects will never be a hassle because each piece of information is legibly written and will truly bring you more usable knowledge. Moreover, the museum also has a coffee shop for you to enjoy the rest of the visit while quenching one's thirst with iced or hot beverage.

Adjacent to the museum is the San Agustin Church, also known as the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and Cinture or the Immaculate Conception Parish. In addition to being a national historical landmark, the church was also designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, under the collective title Baroque Churches of the Philippines. Such a prestige is justified as the church houses a myriad of artifacts that would exquisitely narrate our history seen through religious lenses.

Aside from being the perfect spot to ask for the Lord's providence in blessing that relationship, both the museum and church of San Agustin is definitely a "must-visit" place for Bedans in their journey toward Philippine History, PHILHIS.

The regular entrance fee to Museo de San Agustin is priced at Php200. However, if you show your student ID, you can avail of the discounted price of Php160. The museum is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

ROMANTIC FINE-DINING RESTAURANT

Looking for a unique dining experience combining culture and class? Look no further as Barbara's Heritage Restaurant proves so much more. The restaurant's interior is designed to reflect the colonial period with old portraits, beautiful mirrors, and authentic dining spaces. Whether you're a history buff or a foodie, you will want to experience this one-of-a-kind dining experience. Come and join us for a taste of the past!

Step back to the Spanish era and indulge in Filipino and Spanish-inspired dishes that will transport you back to the 18th century. The price of the dishes starts from Php200 to Php 700. Moreover, they offer specialties for solo and sharing.

In addition to serving delicious food, the restaurant also features live performances of bands playing classical music as you dine. It is located at Plaza San Luis Complex across San Agustin Church, and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. We do recommend to arrive before or around 7 p.m. to secure a table for the Kultura Night show.



A PAST THAT LASTS



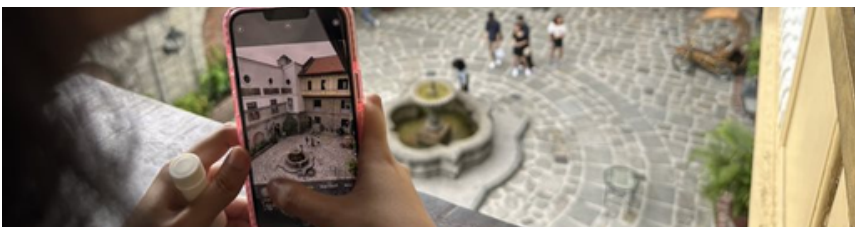
Last but not least is another museum featuring the lifestyle of middle-class Filipinos during the Spanish period. Casa Manila, or "Manila House," offers another journey through time that stands as a testament to what life was like during the colonial period.

The museum houses a remarkable collection of artifacts depicting cultural influences and customs. Additionally, the museum intricately showcases every detail of the clothing, furniture, and household of the said period. Visitors are taken through the many rooms representing anecdotes about its background and significance.



Casa Manila is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The entrance fee is Php75 (regular rate) and Php50 (discounted rate).

With its cobblestone streets, structures of the past, and romantic ambiance, Intramuros is a timeless place for couples to create memories by enjoining the present through looking into the past, while anticipating a future that is as enduring as the walled city. Whether exploring historical sites, strolling down old streets, or indulging in a romantic dinner, Intramuros offers a unique and unforgettable experience for couples seeking a touch of history and romance.



(with Prince Piolo Tagarino)

Stories straight from the Bedan Cupid: Love Inside the Lions' Den

▼ Shelly Bocabel and Kathy Delos Reyes

WHETHER IT'S THE GENTLE WHISPERS OF AFFECTION EXCHANGED BETWEEN LOVERS OR GRAND GESTURES AND SURPRISES THAT LIGHT UP THE SKY, FEBRUARY IS TRULY A CANVAS FOR HOW HUMANS EXPRESS THIS POWERFUL EMOTION CALLED LOVE.

On the lively campus where Bedans navigate classes, friendships, common goals, and shared experiences, unspoken magic lingers in San Beda's halls—the potential for love! Whether it's catching a glimpse of your crush at their worst during finals week, or sharing a moment with that special stranger during last Pista, love can bloom anytime. This magic is undeniable as we unfold the tales of love that bloomed amidst the chaos and vibrancy of campus life.

MAYBE IT'S THE LAW OF LOVE?

MATT AND BEV'S STORY



From having met during a one-act play, their relationship has flourished since then. Now, they are both Legal Management undergraduates at San Beda University (SBU), marking a new chapter in their love story.

BALANCING BOOKS AND LOVE:

HOW DOES A STUDENT-COUPLE DO IT?

Bev and Matt balanced their relationship and academics by having study dates in coffee shops or study hubs.

They find motivation in each other and respect the need for individual space.

Grateful for each other, they managed student life stresses by giving importance to effective time management to support their relationship and academics. "We never forget that we are still students *pero* at the same time we have a relationship. Proper time management *din siguro* is a factor, and as much as possible, we never let our relationship affect our work as students," Matt added.

CLASSROOM COMPETITION: A COUPLE'S FRIENDLY RIVALRY!

Bev and Matt embrace healthy competition within their relationship—with their classroom serving as their battleground. Whether excelling in tests, participating in recitations, or completing tasks promptly, their competitiveness is a positive driving force. According to Bev, this aspect of their relationship is not bad. "This competitiveness isn't toxic since it somehow becomes our drive to put more effort into our academics. So we don't see it as a bad thing but more of something that defines us as a couple."

Matt recounts a memorable story where both of their competitiveness showed. "I remember one time I got a higher score on our midterms exam on Introduction to Law."

AS WE DIVE DEEP INTO THE COUPLE'S CHERISHED CAMPUS MEMORIES...

Matt revealed that the Grade 12 graduation mass at San Beda stands out as the most memorable day.

"It was the first time *kasi* that she met my mom. I was so happy that my mother, whom I love the most finally met my partner. *Akala ko sa movies lang 'to nangyayari*, but there it was, seeing them talk to each other made me very happy, and I just had a big smile all throughout the day."



Bev further emphasized that "Experiencing life as a Bedan is indeed fun and fulfilling, *pero* what makes it more memorable is if [you] have the person you love experience it with you."

THE BEDAN CURSE: A CURSE OR A COMEDY?

Matt dismissed the Bedan curse as a myth, suggesting it's entertaining but shouldn't impact relationships. "I think the Bedan curse is a myth. It's something we can believe for entertainment but shouldn't affect your relationship."

Bev also disagrees with the so-called "Bedan Curse" and emphasizes not relying on myths perpetuated by others but instead focusing on actively nurturing the relationship. "YOLO! and besides, we believe that staying in a relationship with the person you love is a matter of continuous effort to show each other's love *sa isa't isa and hindi lang dapat mag-rely sa myth na sinasabi ng iba*."

BALANCING THROUGH LOVE:

JORGE AND ANGEL'S STORY



Jorge Vincci de Guzman and Angel Hailie Reyes, from the Department of Accountancy and Taxation and Department of Marketing Management, respectively, shared a heartwarming tale of how they crossed paths.

Jorge and Angel's story began six months ago when they were introduced by a mutual friend, who happened to be Jorge's childhood friend, whom Hailie met during her time at SBU-SHS.

The bond between the two flourished when they would go out together after school, with Jorge picking Hailey up at the campus. They would spend quality time together by having dates in Robinsons Magnolia. The couple then made it official in a heartwarming, classic rom-com style, sharing a special moment on the Ferris wheel at the Mall of Asia Eye.

Jorge and Hailie's love story, unfolding like a classic rom-com, has hit the six-month mark. From chance encounters and after-school dates to sealing their commitment atop a Ferris wheel—their journey is magical, filled with laughter, milestones, and a flourishing connection that time has only strengthened.

BALANCING BOOKS AND LOVE: HOW DOES A STUDENT-COUPLE DO IT?

For the couple, maintaining a disciplined schedule to concentrate on academics provides them additional leisure time afterward. In an interview, Jorge revealed, "I allot time and put three to four hours a day of reviewing in, then have fun after." The same routine goes for Hailey stating, "School hours are strictly for academics only and *wala ng iba para magawa pa namin yung mga gusto namin gawin* after like dates or quality time."

REMINISCING ON THE COUPLE'S CHERISHED CAMPUS MEMORIES...

Like a leading man in a rom-com movie, Jorge exclaimed that every day holds a special significance: "For me, every day is a special day." However, if required to choose, Jorge says it would be their first day in San Beda together. For Hailey, on the other hand, it would be the magical atmosphere during the Sibol concert, sharing, "Sibol because *ang epic ng araw na 'yon* but [a] sweet and memorable night for us."

THE BEDAN CURSE: A CURSE OR A COMEDY?

The couple firmly believes that the infamous "Bedan Curse" does not exist! "*Wala na 'kong panahon sa curse-curse na 'yan* and I don't believe *naman sa mga ganyan*," according to Jorge. In agreement, Hailey asserts that there is no such thing, and it all boils down to how a couple manages their relationship: "*Di 'yan totoo. Nasa way ng paghandle niyo ng relationship yan!*"



As we welcome the season of love, let these heartwarming tales from our couples ignite a spark within each Bedan's heart. Whether embracing the love month with a special partner or going solo, may every Bedan find joy in shared moments, strength in overcoming challenges, and feel the warmth of the love that flourishes within our community day by day. Cheers to a month full of love and unforgettable memories at the Lions' Den!

(with Jennifer Gwyneth Fabros)

