

OPINIONS

How to Celebrate Valentine's Day as a Single Person

BY LOUISA HAMMOND

AH, VALENTINE'S DAY, the holiday of love. I remember the days in elementary school when everyone would bring in little cards and candies for all the people in their class, and it would overall be a great time. But then, middle school, high school, and college roll around, and Valentine's Day just starts to lose the magic for people who are single. But that does not mean there are not ways to make the love-filled holiday enjoyable.

1. Go out with your friends and/or family. Most people associate Valentine's Day with romantic love, but it is also about platonic and familial love, so enjoy the day with the people you love the most.

2. Watch a movie, either a romantic one, one that makes you happy to be single, one that falls under both categories (any love story that ends in tragedy), or one of your all-time favorites.

3. Eat a bunch of chocolate or chocolate desserts. Chocolate is often cheaper around the time of Valentine's Day, so take advantage of the holiday and buy a bunch of chocolate when it is on sale. Then, choose if you are going to have it all to yourself or if you want to share it with your friends. Besides, chocolate is not

only the perfect cure for the aftermath of a dementor attack, but it also is known to make people happier after eating it.

4. Treat yourself to a calming night. In college, we are all tired, and it is important to have some time when we can clear our minds and relax every once and a while. Read a book, take a bath, or whatever makes you calm down when there are a million things going on in the world.

5. Go on a blind date. I have never been on one of these, but if you are bolder than me and want some adventure, try this out, especially if your friends set it up. Besides, if the date is a disaster, at least think of all the great stories you can share afterward!

6. Set up a "Secret Cupid" amongst your friends. We are all familiar with "Secret Santas" around Christmas time, so why not do something similar at Valentine's Day, especially if you are planning on celebrating with your friends?

7. Go about your normal day and act like it is not even a special holiday. Believe me, I have done this for a couple of years, and I have lived to tell about it.



Photo Credit: Jennifer Pallian



Conspiracy Theories: Unsolved Murders

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

Photo Credit: Maxim Hopmin

THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER: Also known as Elizabeth Short, she was a 22-year-old woman who died gruesomely in 1947 at Leimert Park, Los Angeles, CA. The conspiracy theories, in this case, start with the suspects, such as Robert Manley, who was the cab driver that dropped her off at the Biltmore hotel where she was staying. The second suspect Joseph Dumais was an Army corporal who claimed to be blackout drunk with Short in San Francisco. He confessed to the murder. Still, with evidence, it proved that he was innocent because he was at his army base during the time of the murder. The final and last suspect is George Hodel, who owned the Hodel hotel, where children were not allowed, and there were secret rooms within his hotel. George's son, Steve Hodel, believed that his own father did kill Short because he had studied surgery in medical school and was considered very intelligent. When police found pictures of what looked to be Elizabeth, they initially gave an 85% chance that the woman in the photo was her. Still, in 2014, when

forensic technology was better, they tested to find it was 90-95% a match that it was her, but as a result, it was still inconclusive, along with letters that looked to have been written by Short. In my opinion, it probably was George because his son Steve also believed that it was his father after being questioned by police, he did admitted to possibly killing her. That police had let it go since he was a man of power.

Tylenol Murders: On September 29th, 1982, in Chicago, over seven people had ingested poisonous Tylenol pills. The suspects were the following: Roger Arnold, who was a 48 year old dock worker at the time, was questioned by police at a bar because he had connections to the Jewel warehouse, and his boss's daughter was one of the victims. Mary Reiner (age 27), and Adam Janus (age 27) had purchased Tylenol from a Jewel convenience store. Ironically, across from where Reiner bought the pills was across the street from where Arnold's wife's psychiatric ward was located. How-to crime manuals were found in his home along with chemistry-related materials, but the

chemicals he was using were of potassium carbonate, not cyanide which was the main chemical that was used to kill the victims. The second suspect was Theodore J. Kaczynski (aka the Unabomber). It made sense— he was native to Illinois, but he was ruled out because he was living in Montana at the time of the murders. The last suspect was someone named James Lewis, but he was also ruled out even though he was sentenced to 13 years in jail for a similar scheme relating to Tylenol poisoning. In my personal opinion, while researching this case, I would think it was Lewis since he was the prime suspect and all signs had pointed to him, especially with a letter with his fingerprints on it explaining his intentions.

The Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe: For those who do not know Edgar Allan Poe, he was an American Gothic writer famously known for poems like "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Raven," who was known to struggle with his own personal demons. After the death of his first wife, Poe fell into depression and started drinking. Poe died in 1849 at the age of 40. The theories about his death are as follows: People who are fans of Poe believed that he died due to having phrenitis, in which a person could die from consuming a lot of alcohol. Another theory was that he was fatally beaten after drinking and possibly assaulted by men who did not approve of him marrying their sister. The last theory was that Poe was the victim of cooping a violent form of voter fraud, and when he was caught, whichever mob he was roped into gave him alcohol knowing that he was sensitive to it. For my last thought on this unsolved case, I think, in general, he most likely died due to alcohol poisoning, and most commonly in that time, a lot of people grieved in that way, using alcohol as a way to block their emotions.