



The title 'DROPPING HINTS' is written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. Each letter is suspended by a thin red string that extends to the top of the page. Two red hearts are also suspended by strings, one positioned below the 'D' and another below the 'O'. The letters and hearts have a slight drop shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

## Dropping Hints for the Gift You Want This Valentine's Day

By DANIELLE HANCE

You know just what you want — the perfect Valentine's Day present. But you don't know how to tell him without being obvious.

Try these top ten hinting techniques:

**10. INVITE HIM SHOPPING.** Run some errands and then tell him you want to make a quick stop into the store (or the aisle if the item is found in a major department store). Tell him that he doesn't have to go in; you are just going to look at a certain item and check on prices. Even if he doesn't go in (bonus if he does), he will know what you're interested in, and you may have the opportunity to give him more details.

**9. TALK ABOUT YOUR INTEREST.** If your present is a scrapbook or a new camera for the shutterbug in you, talk about your hobby and how much you enjoy it. Talk about how much you would really like to buy [insert name of your gift], but you don't really feel justified in doing so.

**8. LEAVE THE AD.** Is your desired item in an advertisement? Try leaving the ad in obvious place with it circled. Under the television remote usually works well.

**7. PLAY TELEMARKETER.** Have a close friend call at a designated time when you know your man will be home. Make a script that opens with, "Hi, if you answer a few short questions, you will be entered to win a [insert name your gift] for your Valentine." The questions can be whatever you please, and after he finishes the survey, remind him again what he could win.

**6. TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR LATEST SHOPPING TRIP.** Invite a girlfriend or two out to look at jewelry, cookware, whatever you want for Valentine's Day. When you come back, be sure to bug your boy with all the details of your trip and what you "absolutely loved."