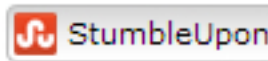


Buying for Your Significant Other: How to Beat the Stress

By Ciara Larkin



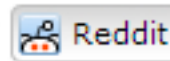
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Stefanie Safran, owner of the Chicago-based dating service [Stef and the City](#), says that setting a price point for gifts is acceptable, [depending on](#) which stage in the relationship you are. If you've been dating a few months already, it's O.K. to discuss a price point in order to eliminate the unnecessary stress. However, if your relationship is more on the new side, you should get something small and save the more expensive gifts for later on. Interestingly enough, Safran also says that it's

not mandatory to get equally priced gifts.

"You do not have to spend the same amount," she said. "If someone ends up spending more, it is not the end of the world. Just be sure to appropriately express your appreciation, because no matter what it is, they probably put some thought into it."

Showing gratitude goes a long way, and the joy you both share over the [gifts](#) is the true meaning behind the holidays.

Spending different amounts on each other can also be acceptable if the [salaries](#) of the two people are drastically different, according to April Masini, relationship expert and the face behind the advice forum [AskApril.com](#).

"If there's a chronic inequity in income or assets, an inequity in gift prices is not a big deal," she said. "If Donald Trump was dating a waitress who was a [college](#) student, you'd expect him to give her something lavish because he could, and you'd expect her to give him something thoughtful, but modest in dollars, because it's what she could do."

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