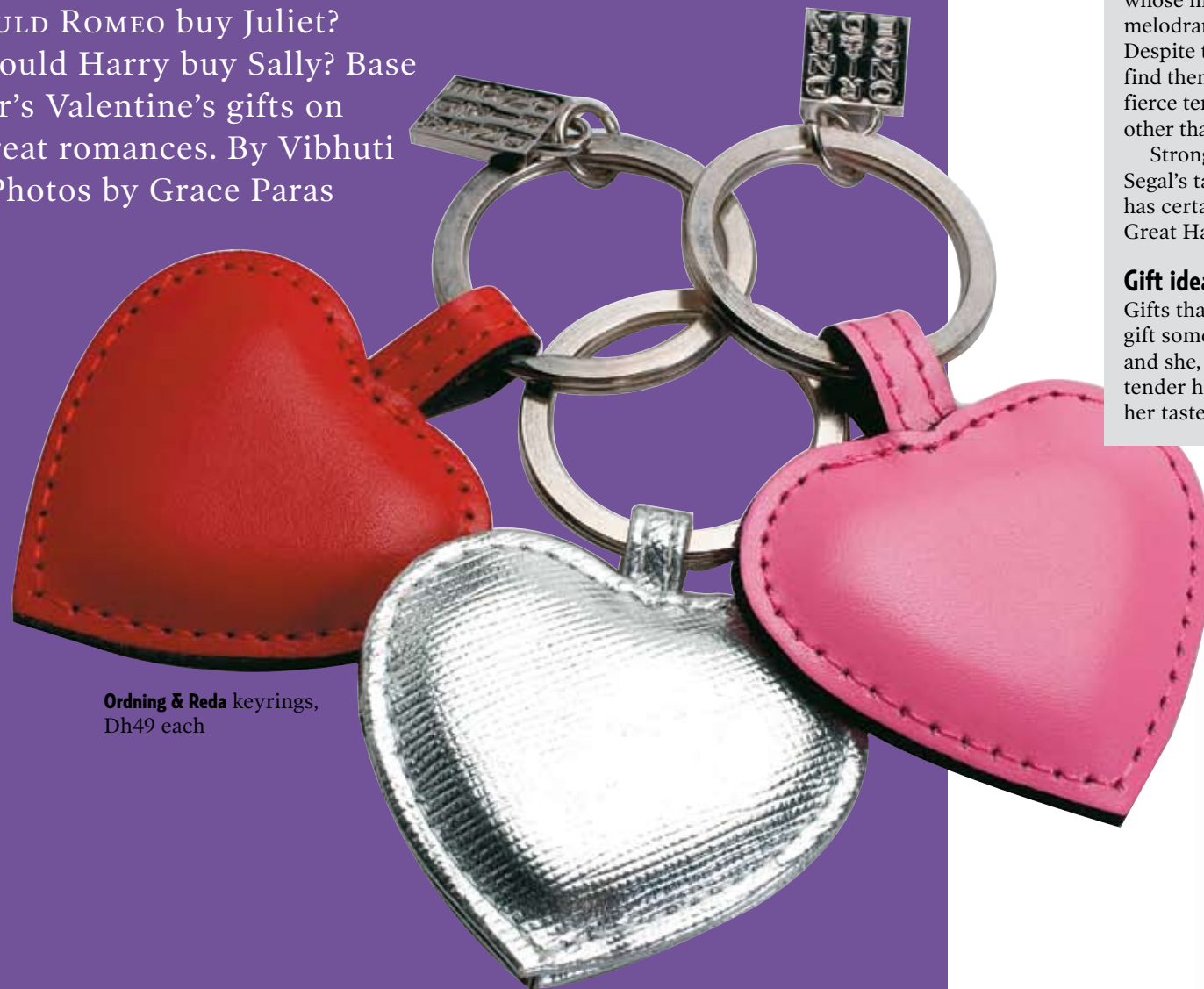


VALENTINE GIFTS

Love is...

WHAT WOULD ROMEO buy Juliet? What would Harry buy Sally? Base this year's Valentine's gifts on these great romances. By Vibhuti Arora. Photos by Grace Paras



Ordning & Reda keyrings, Dh49 each



Ali MacGraw as Jenny Cavalleri and **Ryan O'Neal** as Oliver Barrett IV in a scene from *Love Story*

CORBIS

Love Story

"Love means never having to say you're sorry." This was pretty much the only way to define love when this movie hit the screens in the Seventies. For those who came into the world after the film went into the archives, the storyline may seem a tad bland, but what still shines through even today (pick up a DVD and watch it) are the characters and their relationship: there's Oliver Barrett IV, the guy with a gilt-edged life and Jenny Cavalleri, the girl whose life is spun from thin cotton. Between the melodrama you will find some things relatable. Despite the gap in their social status, the two find themselves falling in love with a kind of fierce tenderness and a staunch belief in each other that retains its appeal, even now. Strong, stubborn yet vulnerable, Erich Segal's tale of Oliver and Jenny's *Love Story* has certainly earned a place for itself in the Great Hall of Romance.

Gift ideas for them

Gifts that are classic, yet simple. Oliver would gift something simple but beautiful for Jenny and she, a proud, independent spirit with a tender heart, would gift him things that reflect her taste and values.

Ordning & Reda phone holder in leather imitation, Dh49



Ordning & Reda cards: small, Dh9, big, Dh19



Aeropostale perfumes, Dh60 (each)

Filofax folding organiser, Dh429 and mini fashion pink pen, Dh147. Available at Magrudy's



The iPod Touch, Apple's new Nano, has a video camera, mic and speaker. Prices start from Dh649. Available at all major electronics stores



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Pink chalcedony and turquoise earrings, Dh750, from Gemme Couture at S*uce



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Leslie Howard as Romeo and Norma Shearer as Juliet in the 1936 film version of *Romeo and Juliet*

Romeo and Juliet

“One fairer than my love? The all-seeing sun Ne’er saw her match since first the world begun.”

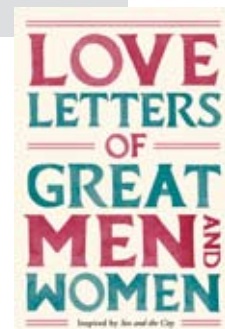
No man speaks like this to their lady love any more, and it’s unlikely a woman of today would have a taste for this kind of expression, but that does not dilute the almost mythical status of this Shakespearean love story. Such has been the impact of this lovelorn duo that their names are still today synonymous with romance. Of course the plot is arguably the most famous tale of feuding families and how love conquers all, and the fact that countless plots have been written since based on the same premise is validation of this story’s timeless appeal. Romeo is the archetypal, intense, swooning-with-love young man who has a heart of mush and is driven by love to the point of dismissing convention and rationality. Juliet matches his mushiness but is also naive and, in keeping with the times she belonged to, she gives decorum and social propriety a sense of priority. Initially fenced in by sweet timorousness, she eventually gathers the courage to make defiance a virtue.

Gift ideas for them

Nothing extravagant, but something that will surely bring a smile to their Valentine’s face. Gifts between these two must be keepsakes for fond memories.



Hearts and tulips flower vase, Dh40 per piece, handmade by Carine Calé. Available at www.arte.ae



Love Letters of Great Men and Women by Ursula Doyle, Dh46. Available at Magrudy’s



Classic polished photo frame, Dh46. Available at Magrudy’s

Chain with pink chalcedony flower, Dh750 and earrings, Dh635, from Gemme Couture at S*uce



Ordning & Reda notebooks with heart lock, Dh129 each

Sweet Embrace pendant from Swatch Bijoux, Dh205.. Available at Swatch outlets



Sweetheart trinket box, Dh32. Available at Magrudy’s



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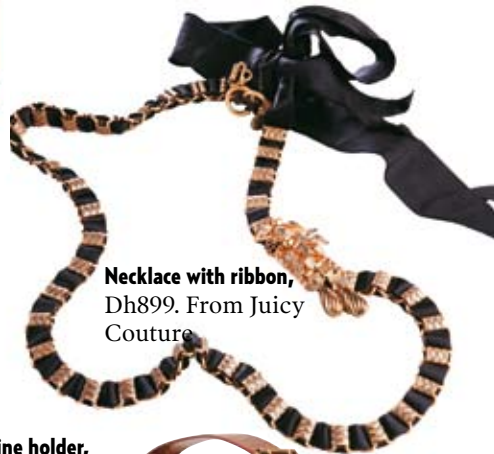
Billy bookcase, Dh225. From IKEA



Canon Digital IXUS 95, Dh799. From Plug-Ins



Liz Claiborne clutch, Dh149. Available at Salam Stores



Necklace with ribbon, Dh899. From Juicy Couture

Magazine holder, Dh99. From Q Home Décor



Salong vase, Dh35. From IKEA



Kosta Boda Valentino bowl, Dh1,380. From Salam Stores



Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan in a scene from the film *When Harry Met Sally*

When Harry Met Sally

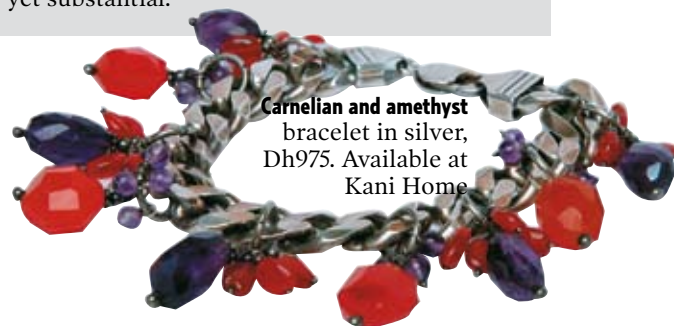
When Harry Burns and Sally Albright meet for the first time it's in a very normal fashion, but you can predict that beneath that normalcy lies a love story waiting to explode into an emotional tug-of-war. It's predictable, yes, but that's the magic of the film. You know how it will end, but you want to know just how they will get there.

Typically, Harry is from Mars and Sally from Venus. Therefore, they have a difference of opinion on everything, including friendship, love and life. This syndrome, apart from the planetary ploy introduced by author John Gray, is as old as evolution. The fact that men and women typically don't agree to disagree most of the time, but simply disagree is a well known flaw of relationships. But Harry and Sally are suffering from the blind spot that exists in many of us - we simply don't recognise love when we see it.

Sally is positive and perky and considers herself a happy person, even when everything is falling apart, while Harry is a pessimist and a chronic worrier. Their insistence on being just friends is the magic in the film that makes you want to watch them jump through the hoops till they realise they are in love.

Gift ideas for them

Any gift (non gender-specific) that makes the buyer happy is a good gift idea, because this pair have more similarities in taste than they care to admit. On the other hand, Sally is the kind who likes exclusive stuff (and Harry considers her to be uptight due to this) while Harry might settle for something more casual yet substantial.



Carnelian and amethyst bracelet in silver, Dh975. Available at Kani Home

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

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