

A Head Gasket for Love

Many years ago, before Roy and I were even married, there was one Valentine that we will never forget. The first time, and possible the last, that Roy thought about having a Valentine gift actually wrapped for me. Plus, this gift had different stages that showed up in steps, one after the other.

Now I know that, in itself, is funny, Roy remembering Valentine! But that's not this story. No, this story is much better. You see, Roy and I were both College students and working part time to cover expenses. I, of course, had too many horses and my truck was in need of some repair. As a college student (and horse owner), there is never enough money to get everything done. Roy was working mechanic at a Phillips 66 Station that actually fixed cars and not just filled them up with gas.



Somewhere in the fog and mist that works as Roy's brain, he came up with the idea of giving me a special present. He went to the store that sold these "gifts" and purchased it. Since they didn't do wrapping, he took the gift to the mall for wrapping. After convincing the lady doing the wrapping that yes he really did want it wrapped and to put a chocolate rose on for decorations, the deed was done. Now for the perfect moment to give the gift.

OK, maybe waiting for the perfect moment to give the gift is a bit too much for Roy; instead he put the gift where he knew I would see it, in front of the TV and waited for me to come in. I was Shocked! I even had to take a picture of it. (See Left) Here was this beautiful wrapped gift from Roy to Me. It was the biggest box of what looked like, well you know what, I had ever received. The wrapping was so excellent that I questioned whether it was really from Roy. He confessed to picking it out but getting professional help in the wrapping.



The Wrapped Gift

Finally after the right amount of admiring time, Roy said I could open it. When I did, I was in for the second shock of that day. Instead of a box of chocolate, it was a head gasket for my Truck!!! We all had a great laugh and did get to eat the flower but I didn't think the gasket would be very tasty.

The second part of this gift, planned out by Roy was the fact that he had gotten permission from the shop owner at the service station for me to bring my truck in and with Roy telling me how to do it, I was to fix the head gasket myself. I thought that was just cool! For one afternoon of work, I was going to



**Roy and Mom
admiring the gift**

become my own mechanic and save myself a lot of MONEY, which was good for I didn't have much cash. I always thought I was rich however for I had Horses!!!

So within a few days, I took my old Ford that was leaking oil up the Service station, put it in a bay and with Roy telling me what bolts and other things to take off, proceeded to disassemble the head of the truck. Now with my degree in Animal Science, I had dissected quite a few small animals but I never had to put them back together again and have them run! I was a bit nervous but ready for the challenge.

I got all the hoses and wires removed from the engine and was ready to actually remove the head bolts. Roy gave me a big wrench with a cheater bar so I could turn the head bolts. I proceeded to take them out one at a time. On my fourth bolt, I noticed that it looked like it had a line across the bolt. I decided to take the bolt over to Roy and asked him if it was supposed to look that way. While standing in front of him with the other mechanics watching for they were fascinated that I was actually

doing my own work, I held the bolt up and snap! It broke in two pieces!!! Everybody in the shop was astonished!!! **FIRST** these were/are Very high grade steel and they just don't break. **SECOND**, I actually got the bolt OUT before it broke, and **THIRD** I snapped it right in front of Roy, as if I had planned it that way. Nobody could believe my luck! Roy decided if I could snap head bolts with my bare hands, he shouldn't mess with me or try to make me mad!

The next part was finding a head bolt to replace the broken one. We called up the dealer who said they didn't sell them for they never broke! I think you could buy a whole set but I only wanted one. I ended up going to a Salvage Yard and the guy went out to a vehicle and removed a bolt for me. When I told him the story and showed him the broken bolt he laugh so hard he ended up giving me the bolt.

The rest of the story went normal. I got the head-gasket replace and my truck back together. Suprisely it even ran afterwards! Out of all the valentine gifts I've ever received, this one has got to be my favorite.



The Gift!

Happy Valentine, I hope it is full of fun and love too.

