

# off duty

THIS IS WHERE THE FUN STUFF HAPPENS



Elevate store-bought flowers with a tip from Denise Porcaro, founder of Flower Girl NYC: "Buy two or three different bunches—mix up the types of flowers and colors—and have them wrapped up as one bouquet. On Valentine's Day, it's OK to go overboard!"

Instead of those same-old roses, go for something unexpected—like ranunculus or fragrant sweet peas.

Sugarfina Cherry Sweethearts, Super Sour Hearts and Sweetheart Caramels, [sugarfina.com](http://sugarfina.com), \$7.50 per cube

## Think Positive

Sometimes it's hard to get motivated, which is why you need to download the Shine app on your iPhone. It sends you inspiration and upbeat articles that encourage you to kick butt at work, make time for self-care or find balance in your hectic life. You can also sign up via text. [Shinetext.com](http://Shinetext.com), iOS, free

### LIP SERVICE

Teens love their lip balm, and now they can make DIY versions to give to friends or keep for themselves. The Handcrafted Lip Balms kit has recipes for 12 different balms in flavors like chocolate hazelnut, mint cookie and honey vanilla, and includes six colorful pods for packaging the finished product. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), \$20

### BAKE SECRET

Lots of us *plan* on doing a baking project with the kids but never quite get around to making it happen. Which is why Red Velvet baking kits are kind of brilliant: Choose a dessert from the site (there are options for every skill level), and you'll receive the pre-measured ingredients with instructions for things like Nutella cupcakes, biscotti and lemon mousse. Yum!

[Redvelvetnyc.com](http://Redvelvetnyc.com), single kits starting at \$26; monthly subscription \$49 for two kits



### HAPPY FEET

For those who like to express their personal style from head to toe, customized sneakers are a fun idea but can be really expensive. For just \$80, at Skor you can pick from more than 300 designs, request a custom design or (budding artist alert!) submit a sketch for your very own creation. [Skorshoes.com](http://Skorshoes.com)

## Paper Route

If you or your teen are crafty, artist Lotta Jansdotter's *Paper Pattern Play* book is for you. Learn how to make sophisticated party decorations, cool games and more. You'll even get designs printed on perforated paper and card stock so you can tear them out and start creating instantly. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), \$20



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## The Future Is Female

It's the next blockbuster from *Avatar* mastermind James Cameron! *Alita: Battle Angel*, written and produced by Cameron, is the story of a young female cyborg who awakens with no memory of who she is in a future world she does not recognize. She soon discovers she has special strength and that enemies from her past are out to control her and her fighting abilities. A classic tale of hope and empowerment with an anime twist. In theaters February 14th.

### Horoscope

## AQUARIUS

Sorry, valentines. True love can often follow a complicated path, and now is one of those times. Despite this rough patch, the last of many eclipses is behind you, which means at least communication will be better between you and your partner. Let yourself be open, as a surprising amount of outside attention is coming your way this month. Expect a great invitation from a family member the week of the 17th that will have you changing plans you thought were firm. Someone in a group you recently joined will single you out for special consideration. Finally, you'll get an irresistible offer that could make a great difference in your appearance. If you say no because you're concerned about what your family may think, don't worry—you'll get another chance to say yes before the offer is gone for good.

**Astrology reading by Jessica Adams** ([jessicaadams.com](http://jessicaadams.com)) Not an Aquarius? See your horoscope for this month at [familycircle.com/horoscopes](http://familycircle.com/horoscopes).