

# Love, Bugs, and Broken Hearts

Presented by: Marc Silver

Romantic Idioms  
Around the World



# Love, Bugs, and Broken Hearts

## Romantic Idioms Around the World

- Love makes fools of us all—and nowhere is that more obvious than in the way we talk about it.
- From fluttery first crushes to bitter breakups, every culture has found its own strange and poetic way of saying “I’ve got it bad.”
- These idioms prove that love doesn’t just cross borders—it trips over them, spills a drink, and leaves an awkward voicemail.
- Let’s take a global look at how we talk about love, heartbreak, and everything in between.

# Falling Hard (and Usually Fast)

**French:** “*Avoir le cafard*”

“To have the cockroach.”

This one’s famous for describing depression, but in the realm of love, it sometimes refers to post-breakup blues—when love bugs you long after it ends.

avoir le cafard  
‘To have the cockroach’





# Falling Hard

**Spanish (Mexico):** “*Estar clavado*” –  
“To be nailed.”

You’re stuck. Hooked. Head over heels.  
Love, as a DIY project—with you  
pinned to the wall.

# Falling Hard

Arabic (Lebanon):

"دخل عيونك"

“I seek refuge in your eyes.”

Romantic? Very.

Over-the-top? Absolutely.

But if you're smitten, this hits just right.





# Falling Hard

**Hindi (India):** “*Dil garden garden ho gaya*”

“My heart became a garden.”

Flowers blooming, birds chirping—this is what love feels like in Bollywood metaphors.

# Hearts on Fire (and Other Romantic Disasters)

**Portuguese (Brazil):**

*“Levar um fora”*

“To be taken outside.”

Sounds like a quiet chat on the patio, but it's the Brazilian way to say you just got dumped.



A photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, sitting on a bed. She is wearing a dark grey t-shirt and blue jeans. Her hands are clasped in her lap, and she has a somber, pensive expression, looking slightly downwards. The background is a softly lit room with a window and some furniture.

# Hearts on Fire

**Russian:** “*Сушить по кому-то*”

(*Sushit' po komu-to*)

“To dry out for someone.”

A slow, aching longing. Like being emotionally parched while pining away.

# Hearts on Fire

**Japanese:** “*Koi no yokan*”

“The premonition of love.”

Not love at first sight—but the sense that love *will* happen.

Like reading the trailer before watching the movie.





# Hearts on Fire

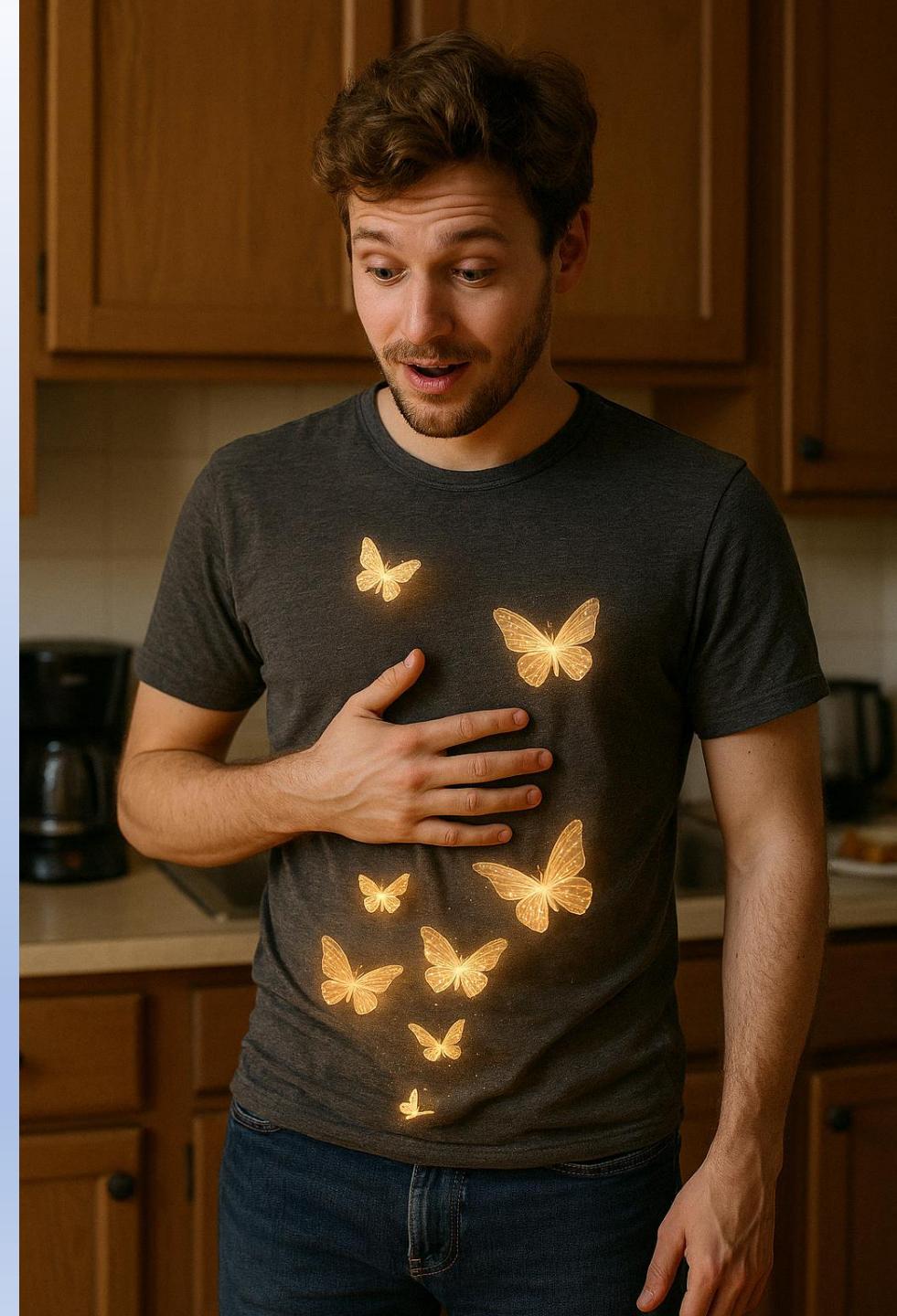
**Turkish:** “*Kalbim pir pir ediyor*”  
“My heart is fluttering.”

Used in moments of attraction—like when your crush texts back *within five minutes*.

# Hearts on Fire

**German:** “*Schmetterlinge im Bauch*”  
“Butterflies in the belly.”

We say it in English too, but the Germans really own it—romance as internal chaos.





# Heartbreak and Moving On

**Vietnamese: “Ăn trăng”**  
“To eat the moon.”

A poetic metaphor for longing for something beautiful but unattainable—perfect for those “*it could never be*” crushes.

# Heartbreak and Moving On

**Korean:** “애간장을 태우다”

*(aeganjang-eul taeuda)*

“To burn your liver with sorrow.”

Heartbreak so intense, it starts cooking  
your organs.





# Heartbreak and Moving On

**French:** “*Avoir le cœur brisé*”

“To have a broken heart.”

A classic. Still dramatic. Still  
universally felt.

# Heartbreak and Moving On

Swahili

(Kenya/Tanzania):

*“Kupasuka moyo”*

“The heart explodes.”

Love gone so wrong, it's  
not just broken—it's in  
shrapnel.





# Heartbreak and Moving On

Filipino (Tagalog):

*“Kilig”*

There's no direct  
translation.

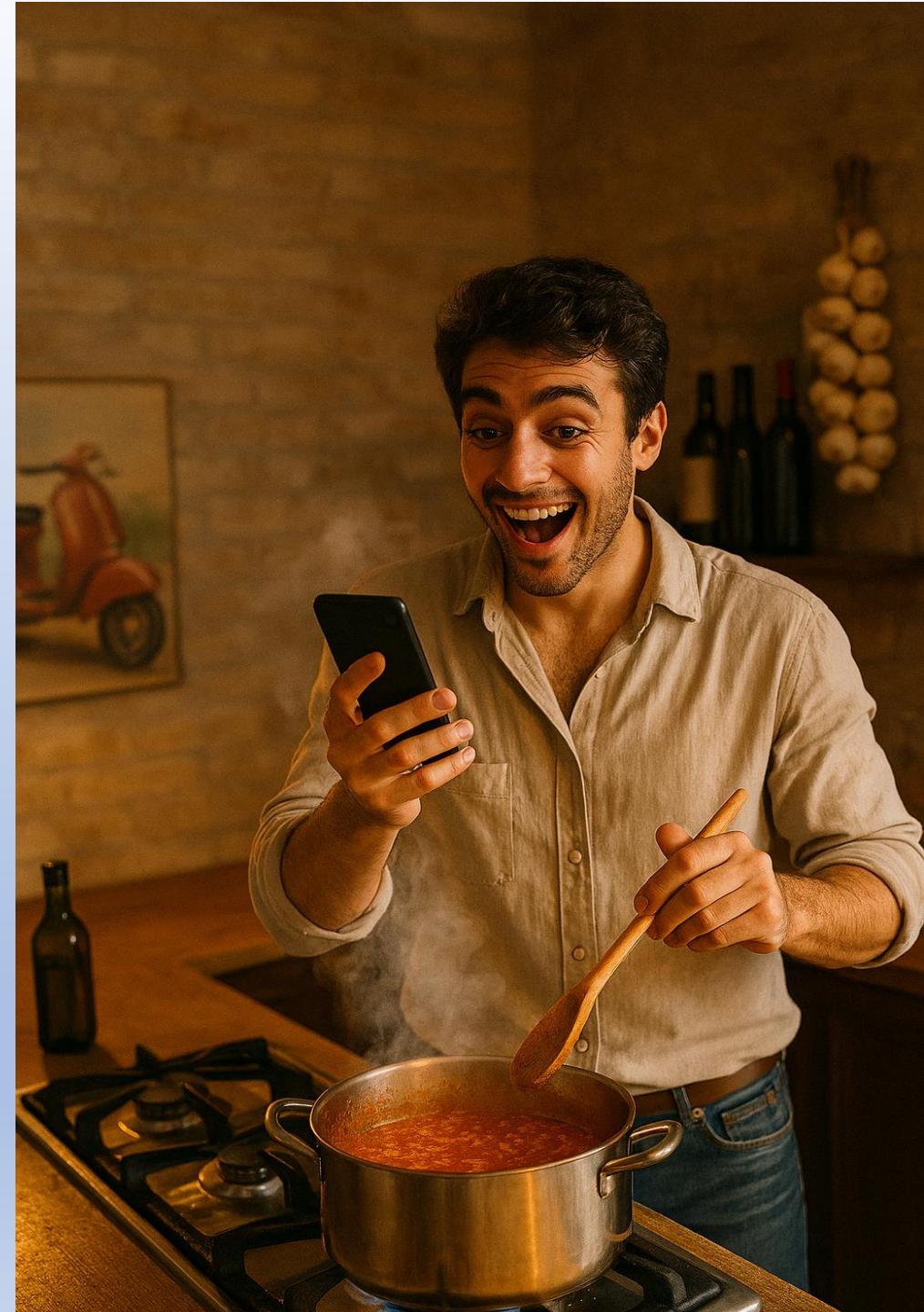
It's the rush, the giddy  
thrill, the emotional  
squeal you feel when  
love flirts with  
possibility.

# Love as War, Game, or Magic

**Italian:** “*Prendere una cotta*”

“To take a cooking.”

You've been emotionally roasted—  
burned by a crush.





# Love as War, Game, or Magic

**Hebrew:** “נִשְׁבַּר לִי הַלְבָב” (*Nishbar li halev*)  
“My heart broke.”

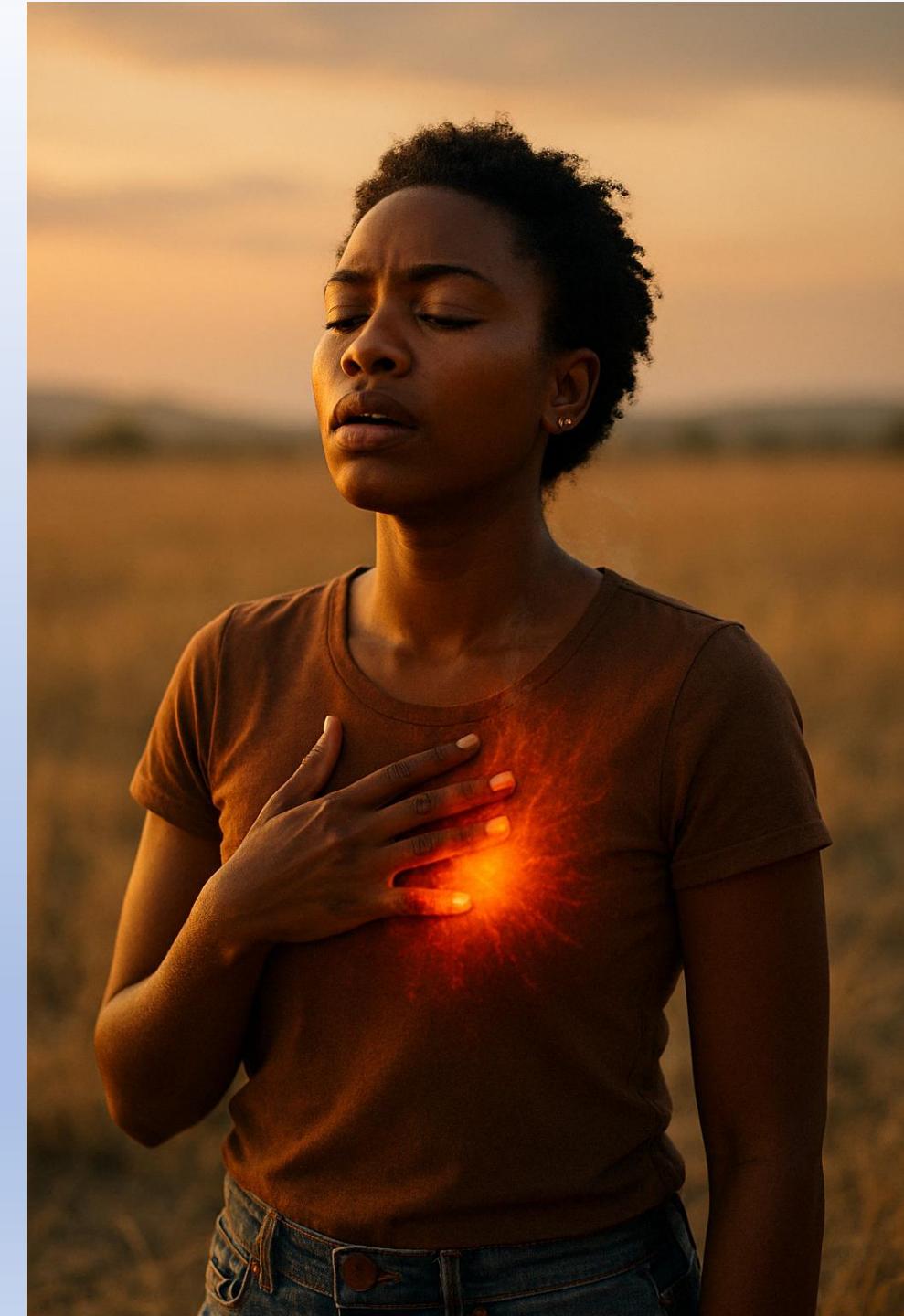
Simple. Raw. Used both seriously and sarcastically, depending on how much ice cream is involved.

# Love as War, Game, or Magic

**Zulu (South Africa):** “*Inhliziyo yami iyashisa*”

“My heart is burning.”

Love as combustion. It's either passion... or acid reflux.



A photograph of a young couple sitting at a round wooden table in a cafe. The man, on the left, is smiling broadly and holding a white cup of coffee. The woman, on the right, is laughing and gesturing with her hands. On the table, there are two white coffee cups and saucers, a small white sugar bowl with a blue floral pattern, and a small orange and black butterfly resting on the sugar bowl. The background is blurred, showing the interior of the cafe.

# Love as War, Game, or Magic

**Dutch:** *“Hij heeft vlinders in zijn buik”*  
“He has butterflies in his belly.”

Yes, the butterflies are global. Love anxiety is, apparently, a worldwide pandemic.

# Final Thoughts

## Love Hurts, But It Sounds Beautiful

- These idioms show us just how *dramatic, hopeful, and sometimes ridiculous* love can be.
- Whether your heart is blooming, burning, or buried under a pile of emotional noodles, someone, somewhere, has already found the perfect phrase for it.
- And that's comforting, isn't it?

# Thank You for Coming!

I hope I've educated  
and entertained you today.

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