EDUCATION

Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide

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A Comprehensive Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide

In the rich and dangerous world of Thedas, your success as a Grey Warden depends not only on your combat prowess but also on the loyalty and camaraderie of your companions. Few mechanics in *Dragon Age Origins* are as crucial to building these relationships as the gift system. Understanding how to properly bestow gifts can mean the difference between a staunch ally who would follow you into the Fade and a resentful companion who questions your every decision. This comprehensive **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**will walk you through every nuance of this system, helping you maximize approval, unlock personal quests, and even spark romance.

Understanding the Gift System in Dragon Age Origins

At its core, the gift giving mechanic is straightforward: you acquire a specific item from the world and present it to a companion. The companion then reacts with a change in their approval rating. However, the system contains far more depth than a simple barter transaction. Each companion in your party has a unique personality, backstory, and set of values. A gift that delights one character might utterly offend another. For instance, giving a religious icon to the devout Leliana will earn you her gratitude, while presenting the same item to the staunchly agnostic Morrigan could result in a sharp decrease in approval.

Gifts are categorized into two primary types: general gifts and companion-specific gifts. General gifts, such as a bottle of fine wine or a decorative vase, can be given to any companion but yield a small, consistent approval boost. Companion-specific gifts, often tied to a character's personal history or interests, provide a much larger approval gain. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**emphasizes that these specific gifts are the most efficient way to build a strong bond quickly, as they often trigger unique dialogue and deepen the narrative connection between the Warden and their ally.

Why Gifts Matter: Approval and Romance

Approval ratings in *Dragon Age Origins*are far from cosmetic. A high approval rating unlocks personal companion quests, which are often among the most memorable storylines in the game. These quests provide deeper insight into a character's motivations, history, and struggles. Additionally, high approval can unlock special dialogue options, including opportunities for romance. Conversely, low approval can lead to companions confronting you, refusing to follow orders, or even leaving the party permanently or attacking you. A well-placed gift can often recover a fraying relationship or push a companion from neutral to loyal.

The romance system is directly tied to gift giving. Most romanceable companions require a certain approval threshold before romantic dialogue options become available. Gifts are one of the most reliable ways to reach this threshold without having to constantly make dialogue choices that align with their worldview. For players looking to pursue a specific romance, this **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**is an essential resource for

identifying the exact gifts that will win a companion's heart.

Comprehensive Companion Gift Guide

Below is a detailed breakdown of each companion, along with their specific gifts and the general strategies that work best for earning their approval. Remember that timing and context also matter: giving a gift during a quiet moment at camp often yields the best narrative outcome.

Alistair: The Noble Bastard

Alistair is one of the first companions you meet and serves as a loyal, if sarcastic, Grey Warden. His background as a former templar and his complex feelings about his royal lineage make him a character who values humor, loyalty, and a sense of duty. The following gifts are particularly effective with Alistair:

- The Binding Stone Charm: This is a companion-specific gift that Alistair deeply treasures. It is tied to his past at the Chantry and his relationship with Duncan. Giving this to him triggers a touching conversation about his memories.
- The Small Sword of the Grey Wardens: Another specific gift that connects to his identity as a Grey Warden. This item brings out his more serious and prideful side.
- General Gifts: Alistair appreciates practical gifts like fine weapons or armor, though the boost is smaller. He also responds well to gifts related to the Chantry, given his templar training.

Morrigan: The Witch of the Wilds

Morrigan is perhaps the most complex companion to win over. Her approval is often tied to pragmatic, ruthless, and independent choices. She despises sentimentality and weakness. Approaching the **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide** with Morrigan in mind requires a careful hand:

- The Black Grimoire: This is a powerful specific gift that Morrigan finds fascinating. It is connected to Flemeth and her dark magic, and giving it to her unlocks significant backstory and a large approval boost.
- The Grimoire of the Frozen Wastes: Another book of forbidden knowledge, this gift appeals to her scholarly side and her thirst for magical power.
- General Gifts: Morrigan dislikes most general gifts, especially those that are sentimental or religious. She might occasionally appreciate a piece of jewelry, but books and arcane artifacts are far more effective.

Leliana: The Bard of Orlais

Leliana is a former bard who has found faith in the Chantry. She is romantic, creative, and deeply spiritual. She responds well to kindness, beauty, and religious devotion. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**for Leliana focuses on items of beauty and faith:

- Andraste's Grace: This is a specific flower that Leliana adores. It symbolizes her faith and her past, and giving it to her triggers a heartfelt conversation.
- The Ritual of the Maker: A religious text that aligns with her Chantry beliefs. This gift yields a strong approval boost.
- General Gifts: Leliana appreciates fine jewelry, delicate statuettes, and other aesthetic items. She also likes gifts related to music or poetry.

Sten: The Qunari Warrior

Sten is a stern Qunari warrior bound by a strict code of honor. He values strength, discipline, and purpose. He is not easily impressed by sentimentality. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**for Sten prioritizes items of utility and martial power:

- The Sword of the Beresaad: A specific sword that resonates with his Qunari identity. This gift unlocks important dialogue about his past and his people.
- Painting of the Dragon: Surprisingly, this specific painting appeals to Sten's appreciation for art that

depicts strength and power. It triggers a unique, almost humorous reaction.

- General Gifts: Sten responds well to high-quality weapons and armor. He also appreciates practical tools. He has little use for trinkets or religious icons.

Zevran Arainai: The Antivan Crow

Zevran is a charming and pragmatic assassin who values freedom, humor, and self-interest. He appreciates gifts that show a sense of style or practicality. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**for Zevran highlights items tied to his trade and his personal tastes:

- Antivan Leather Boots: A specific gift that reminds him of home and his training as a Crow. He appreciates the gesture and the quality of the craftsmanship.
- The Pendant of the Crow: Another specific item that connects to his past. This gift can lead to a deeper conversation about his feelings toward the Crows.
- General Gifts: Zevran likes fine daggers, stylish jewelry, and practical equipment. He also responds well to gifts that are valuable, as he appreciates wealth.

Wynne: The Elder Mage

Wynne is a wise and compassionate Circle mage. She values knowledge, kindness, and the wellbeing of others. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide** for Wynne focuses on her role as a mentor and healer:

- Bottle of Divine Vineyard Wine: A specific gift that Wynne enjoys. It reminds her of simpler times and triggers a warm conversation.
- Binder of Morrigan's Grimoire: While this is a story item, giving it to Wynne at the right moment shows that you value her judgment.
- General Gifts: Wynne appreciates books, especially those related to magic or history. She also likes fine wine, practical herbs, and gifts that show consideration for others.

Oghren: The Dwarven Berserker

Oghren is a drunken, brash, but ultimately loyal dwarven warrior. His approval is tied to combat, ale, and straightforward honesty. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide** for Oghren is perhaps the simplest:

- Unlimited Supply of Ale: While there isn't a single specific gift, Oghren greatly appreciates any gift of alcohol. Giving him a bottle of ale yields a notable approval boost.
- Tougher Leathers: A specific crafting material that he uses for his armor. This shows you pay attention to his needs.
- General Gifts: Oghren likes strong weapons, sturdy armor, and anything related to combat. He has no patience for religious items, books, or delicate jewelry.

Dog: The Loyal Mabari

While Dog is not a traditional companion with dialogue, he does have an approval system. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide** even extends to this faithful hound:

- Mabari Treats: These are the only specific gift for Dog. Giving them to him increases his bond and makes him more effective in combat.
- General Gifts: Dog appreciates being petted and taken on walks, but treats are the only item-based gift that affects his approval.

Tips and Strategies for Gift Giving in Dragon Age Origins

Mastering the gift system requires more than just knowing which gifts to give. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**is most effective when paired with a broader strategy for companion management. Here are some essential tips:

Prioritize Companion-Specific Gifts

Always prioritize companion-specific gifts over general gifts whenever possible. The approval boost from a specific gift is substantially larger, often ranging from 20 to 30 points, compared to the 5 to 10 points from a general gift. Specific gifts also unlock unique dialogue that enriches the story.

Consider the Timing

Gifts have the most narrative impact when given during quiet moments at camp. Giving a gift immediately after a major story event can also enhance the emotional resonance. For instance, giving Leliana a flower after a tough battle can feel especially meaningful.

Do Not Waste Gifts on Maxed Companions

Once a companion reaches maximum approval (100), further gifts have no effect. Save your general gifts for companions who are still neutral or low approval. The **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide**recommends hoarding general gifts early in the game until you identify which companions are harder to please through dialogue alone.

Use Gifts to Recover from Bad Choices

If you make a dialogue choice that lowers a companion's approval, a well-chosen gift can quickly repair the damage. This is especially useful for companions like Morrigan or Sten, whose approval can drop sharply if you act against their values.

Explore Thoroughly

Many companion-specific gifts are found in hidden locations, locked chests, or quest rewards. Thoroughly explore every area, including the Circle Tower, the Deep Roads, and the Brecilian Forest. The Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide

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