

Love Letters

The 14th of February is a day devoted to celebrating love. You can express your affection to that special person in the usual way (go out to dinner, box of candy, over priced flowers) or with a little imagination and for a lot less cash, celebrate at home.

It doesn't matter if you are planning dinner or a leisurely breakfast, make it cozy and intimate. Food in front of a roaring fire is always romantic especially if you are seated at low table with floor pillows. You can use a coffee table or in this instance an old wood trunk. Cover it with a table cloth or any piece of fabric.



There isn't a single heart or flower in this setting. Instead of placemats, I found old Scrabble board games at the store. Write any message or spell out your feelings for each other with the tiles.



An old muffin tin is the perfect size for extra letters, votive candles and candy (no expensive and fattening box of chocolates here!).



The valentine card is vintage, but the XOXO says it all. Use dinnerware you have left over from Christmas. Square red plates set "on point" complement the game boards. White napkins are softly folded in little copper napkin rings I found for \$2.99 for a set of four. Dinner should be simple, after all the emphasis should be on dinning, not cooking. Chinese take-out allows you both to share.



Add a couple of floor pillows and you have a romantic evening ready to surprise someone.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning said, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." I say spell it out!

Happy Valentine's Day!