

## A Valentine's Party for Two

Written by Written by Susie Tyler-Alofs

Tuesday, 31 January 2012 11:17 - Last Updated Thursday, 02 February 2012 13:51

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Susie Tyler-Alofs shows that love is not only in the air but can be right in your very own backyard.



### Décor

Candles! Candles! Candles! They are simple, easy and scream romance. This celebration also included a houselike structure built with two-by-fours then layered with white tulle and twinkle lights. This became the stage for the romantic outdoor bed. An extravagant coordinating table-for-two was the vision of Avant-Garde. You can build a similar structure or simply move your mattress to the backyard. Add white bedding, a table set for two (a card table and tablecloth work beautifully) and your favorite dining room chairs. Elegant floral and an effortless dinner can be found at your local AJ's Fine Foods.

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**Décor:** Avant-Garde, [www.avant-gardestudio.com](http://www.avant-gardestudio.com). **Dessert:** Tammie Coe Cakes, [www.tammiecoecakes.com](http://www.tammiecoecakes.com). **Invitation:** The Paper Place, 480.941.2858. **Photography:** Erica Velasco, [www.ericavelasco.com](http://www.ericavelasco.com).

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### Invitation

This romantic invitation-for-one is adorned with a feather and reads: "I'm going to ruffle your feathers in the best sort of way with a romantic celebration of Valentine's Day. We'll be in the backyard (but miles away)! With stars overhead, and a comfortable bed, and a fabulous dinner (or just me instead). No cell phones and clatter, no children with chatter. And here's an incentive to settle the matter: just name your dessert...it will be on the platter! Attire: optional." This creative wordsmithing and the feather embellishment became the inspiration for the entire evening.

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### **BE MINE**

**Before you pick up the phone to order flowers, consider these original V-Day gift ideas.**

- Turn a deck of cards into "52 Reasons I Love You." This crafty idea is great for any relationship. It works for a girlfriend or boyfriend, wife or husband, mother or father—even your children. The reasons can range from sexy and passionate to loving and sweet.
  - A set of men's pajamas with her name monogrammed on the top and his on the bottom.
  - Men love romance and lace, so don't be afraid to book a boudoir shoot. (Tyler-Alofs recommends her favorite photographer, Erica Velasco.)
  - Pick out something sexy with the help of personal shopper, Gustavo, at Saks Fifth Avenue. He is known for his discretion and creativity.
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**For more creative ideas and a behind-the-scenes look at Valley parties, visit [www.susietyler.com](http://www.susietyler.com).**