

IMAGINATIVE IDEAS FOR INSPIRED LIVING

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TENDER LITTLE *Love Notes*

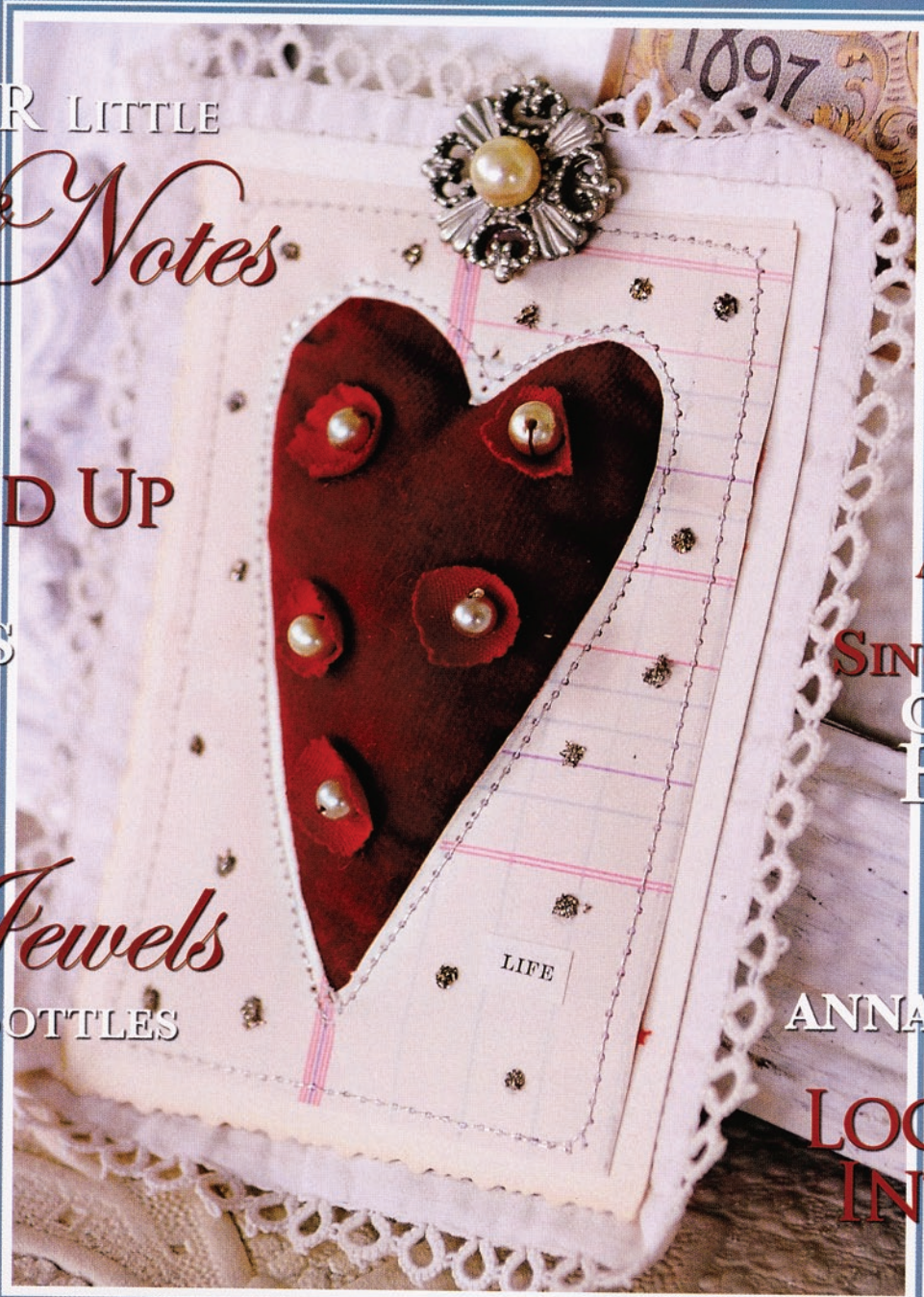
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LOVE Tokens

by Andrea Singarella



Classic & Timeless

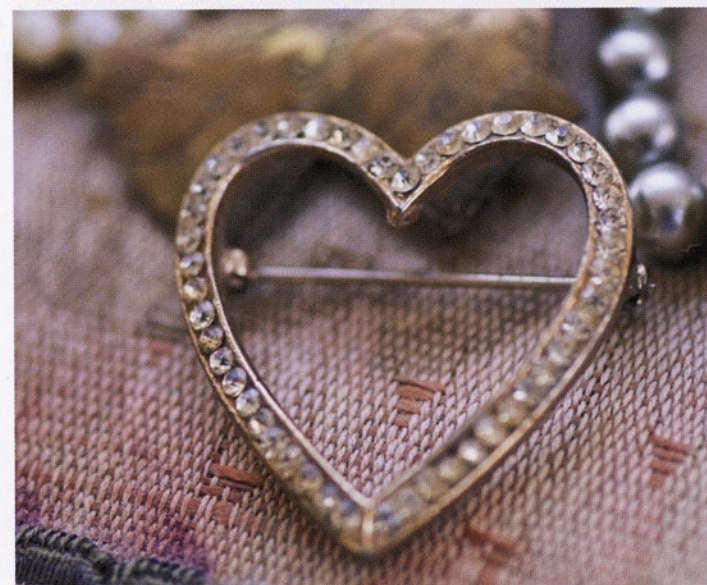
A classic and timeless symbol of love and affection, hearts are always in style. Maybe it's the soothing, curved symmetry of the shape itself that attracts us. Perhaps it's the tender thoughts and feelings of love that this icon evokes, luring the hopeless romantics among us. Whatever the draw, Cupid's not the only one in love with hearts.

Like many little girls, I had a thing for hearts. At a young age, I began collecting heart-shaped jewelry. Back then, it was mostly the pink plastic varieties that I found irresistible. But like anything, as time passed, my taste and style evolved.

Castaway Treasures

These days I find that I'm most fond of locket and silver or gold hearts encrusted with rhinestones or studded with pearls. Surprisingly, such pieces are not all that elusive. I always keep an eye open for heart-shaped jewelry when I sift through boxes of castaway treasures at flea markets and antique shops.

Most of the pieces I've found cost no more than a few dollars each, and it seems nearly every trip to the flea market has produced at least one heart — most often a brooch. Since jewelers have been producing heart jewelry for decades, there are plenty of pieces out there for every vintage-loving girl to find! As many of us know, the thrill of the hunt is half the fun.



Years ago, my mother gave me a small rhinestone heart charm that she had worn on a chain in high school. I remember cherishing it then as much as I do now. I didn't realize at the time, but that gift would be the first piece in a collection that would grow with me. And so began my search for more beautiful, old heart-shaped love tokens.

Adored & Loved

I really didn't realize I had acquired so many hearts until one day I found myself puttering around and attempting to organize my vintage jewelry collection. The pieces were all in different jewelry boxes — some sitting in pretty trays and still others were pinned to a board in my studio.

I began gathering them all together and noticed what a pretty collection I had unknowingly amassed. I decided to attach all of the smaller hearts to a charm bracelet, loving the impact of things en masse. This way, I was able to wear many of the pieces at once, and rescue them from the unseen depths of the jewelry boxes!

As for the larger heart-shaped pendants and brooches, they all take turns being worn, adored and loved. After all, isn't that what a heart is for? ~

To learn more about Andrea Singarella's art and life, visit her beautiful blog at www.velvetstrawberries.typepad.com.



