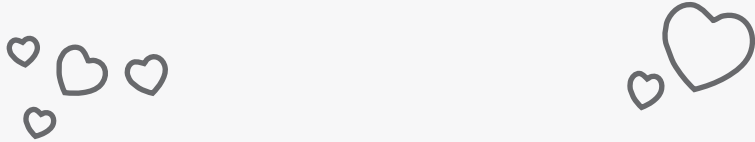


Tiger Love (No, not *that* Tiger.)



Roses are red, violets are blue; I sure am sore, but not at you.

Thou art my love and I am thine: could I begrudge my Valentine?
Not I, not now, no way, 'tis true — but let me just get off this shoe,
There is one thing that you could do ...

I searched all week for something sweet, through snow and rain and
wind and sleet,

For tasty treats on which to dine that would befit my Valentine.
But now I fear I face defeat. For by exploring every street
I've nothing but two barking feet.

From toe to heel, from heel to toe, from shin above to arch below.
(The ache I take as tragic sign of how I love thee, Valentine.)
I feel just so, a bit schizo. If feet were ears then I should know
What madness gripped Vincent Van Gogh.

But luck would have that I was down trolling shops in Chinatown.
No nabe I know is so divine when New Year's meets St. Valentine.
A grey masseuse in silken gown who read my story in my frown
Produced a salve of world renown.

So, my dear, into your palm, I press this tin of Tiger Balm.
You may not greet it with aplomb, nor think it worth a deep salaam,
But hopefully you have no qualm to rub it on, and so becalm
My tender feet whilst I recline. Ahhhh ... yes, my lovely Valentine.

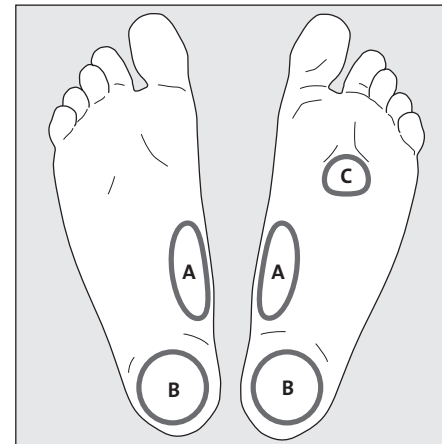
X O X O

Happy New Valentine's Year!

Year of the Tiger opens on the new moon of St. Valentine's Day, and we're finding it hard not to draw inspiration from that happenstance. But to what end?

Should Cupid forsake arrows for firecrackers? Might red roses replace red envelopes? Or can we find a brand new tradition born from this marriage of east and west — a tender massage with the red tiger's heat.

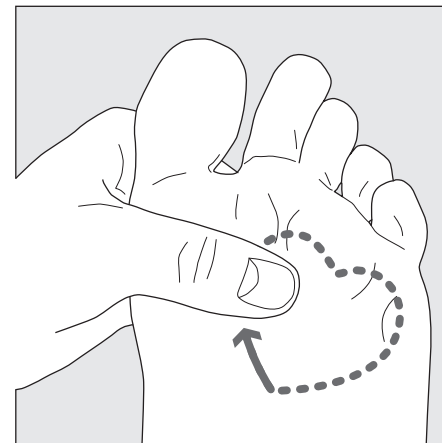
STEP ONE



You can't swing a cat in our neighborhood without hitting a foot massage parlor. This time of year, we often see couples treating themselves to a Valentine's Day rub.

- For a back ache, apply the balm along your insoles (A).
- For a pain in the butt, heat up the bottom of your heels (B).
- And for heartache, target the spot under the ball of your left foot (C).

STEP TWO



The simplest technique for working a spot on your foot is to press from both sides and knead deeply with your thumb.

If Cupid's arrow has penetrated especially deep, the balm may be applied in a special pattern.

To finish off, how about a nice, romantic dinner of dim sum and Dom Pérignon?