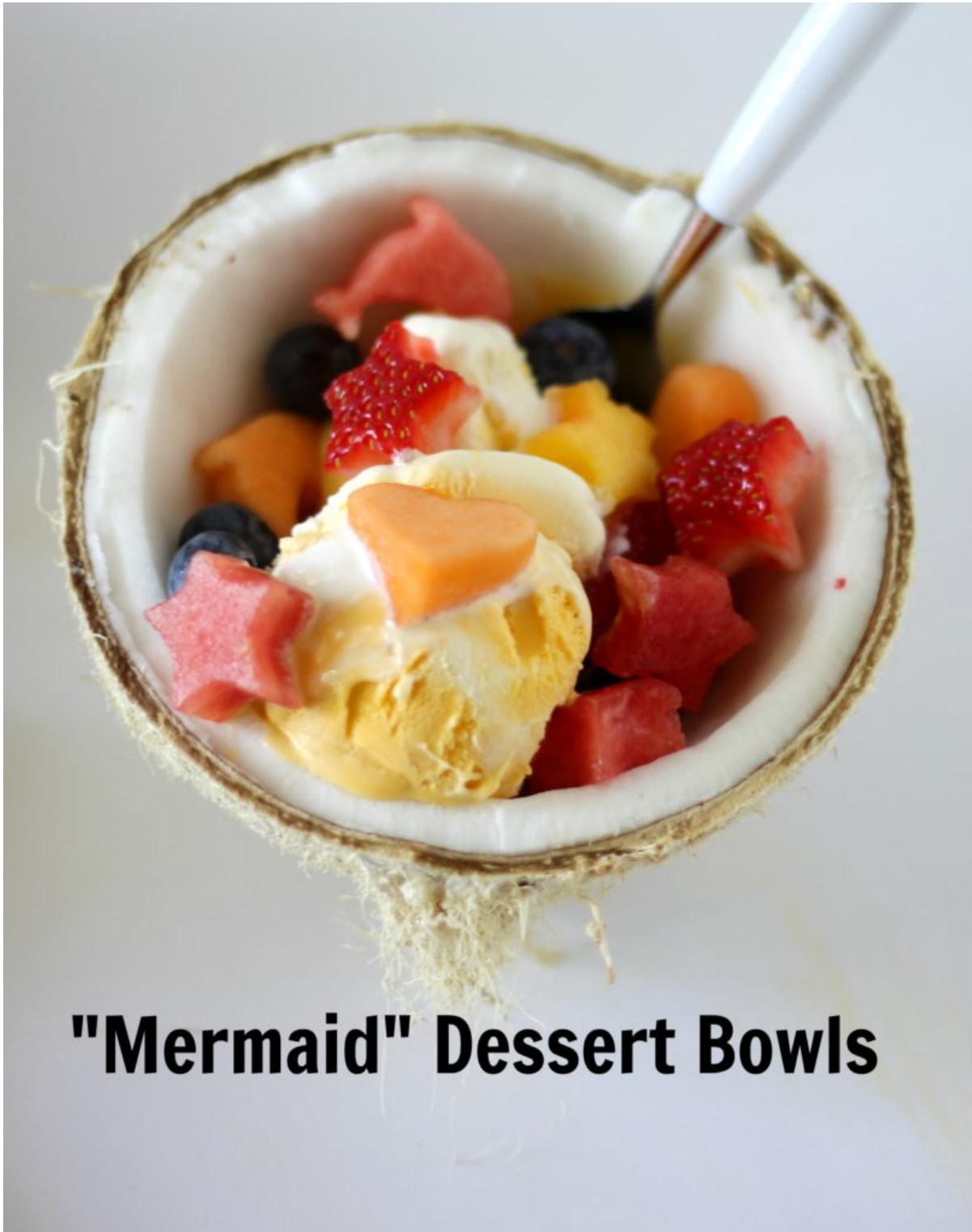


“Mermaid” Fruit Bowls



"Mermaid" Dessert Bowls

You ever wonder how it is you got somewhere? Not like, “I’m at home and now I’m at Target. How did that happen?” Because, really, we all know how that happens. The more appropriate question for Target is, “I went in for toilet paper. How did I end up walking out with \$150 worth of goods?” Damn you,

Target!!!

But no, that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about looking back at your life and wondering how it 'landed' you where you are today. Case in point: This passed week I found myself how it was that I was managing a camping trip of roughly 110 9th graders and, like, I was in charge (of that camp – thank Gd, not of the whole trip). I was, however, put in charge of all medical issues—assessing, treating (with what little equipment I had), making calls on who needs off the island NOW and who can wait. I think back to who I was a decade ago or even 20 years ago as a fresh graduate of high school and I think, "There's no way in hell I saw myself doing what I'm doing now". Of course I had always wanted to be rock star—singing is the ONE thing I can confidentially say that I do well. I charted my course for that as well. I took lessons forever. I immersed myself in musical theater. I even went to college of a theater scholarship. But alas, I took a different direction when I was 19. When I was 19 I spent the summer working for a rehabilitation camp for Kosovo refugee children and that was it. I went to college the next year, changed my major from theater to political science (which is just theater for unattractive people) and starting working on my career as an advocate. I didn't know that that's what it was I wanted to be at that time but, in looking back at what I wanted, that was definitely 'it'.

I guess you could say my dreams of becoming an advocate have come true. I advocate for my students CONSTANTLY and sometimes? Sometimes people actually listen . . . but not as much as I'd like. That said, I think I might possibly be living my dream. It's not the dream of accepting a TONY award (I've had that speech prepared since I was 12) or of running a nationally recognized nonprofit (I love my family too much to give my whole life to running a nonprofit. Also? I don't know how to run a nonprofit. Details.). But it is the dream of advocacy. Albeit, a different kind but I love it all the same.



So what does this have to do with fruit bowls and mermaids? Well, the other thing I NEVER thought I'd be doing is running the little food blog. Or any food blog, for that matter. Heck,

even cooking! My first roommate and I used to add frozen vegetables to pots of Rice a-Roni and call it gourmet. I did not know how to cook for a very long time. That said, I still loved entertaining and would go out of my way to make sure the table setting looked great . . . most likely because I knew the food was going to be terrible but hey! At least it looked pretty. This post is an extension of that old Whitney. It doesn't take a lot of culinary 'know-how' and it really doesn't take a lot of talent. It does, however, take a few coconuts, some fruit and tiny little cookie cutters. Tiny cookie cutters came into my life last year when I was reading a Pinterest post on fun kid lunch ideas for school. Someone showed tiny cheese sandwiches in the shapes of various animals and I was like, "Can adults also eat that cause that's the cutest thing I've ever seen. Show me the Amazon link IMMEDIATELY". A batch of animals, hearts, stars and Mickey Mouse ears later and I'm cutting everything I see into fun, tiny shapes. So if you've got friends and family coming over for a Shavuot or Memorial Day meal and you need a fun dessert recipe, STAT or you just really enjoy cutting foods into tiny shapes, this is the recipe for you. I hope you enjoy! Chag Sameach!











Mermaid Dessert Bowls

Ingredients:

1 whole coconut, cut in half
1/2 mango, sliced long and thick
1 pint strawberries
1 pint blueberries
1 package pineapple, sliced long and thick
1 pint ice cream

Directions:

First, drain the coconut. Seeing as that I am not, in fact a mermaid and that we definitely didn't have coconuts falling from the trees where I grew up in Marietta, GA, my husband and I totally searched "WikiHow" to figure out the best way to cut a coconut in half as precisely as possible. We found that #3 works best from the site: 3 Ways to Open a Coconut.

Once you drained and rinsed out your coconut, set it aside. Next, using your favorite tiny cookie cutters, cut out as many tiny figures as possible. I used a tiny heart, dolphin and star cookie cutter to create a more 'under the sea' vibe.

Next, scoop out as much ice cream as you want and top with fruit. No one's pretending this is a difficult 'recipe', but it is a fun one at that. Enjoy after Instagramming so that all your friends know you're having a deliciously fun mermaid time!

P.S. Use all the leftover fruit scraps to make one delicious fruit smoothie! Waste not; want not!