

Click:

An Online Love Story

Lisa Becker



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by
Lisa Becker

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those which are in the public domain, are the product of the author's
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persons, living or dead, businesses, events or locales is entirely
coincidental.

For SJB, my soul mate, and OJB and MJB, the loves of my life

With gratitude to JR and GSD, for without you,
life as I know it would not exist

With gratitude to mom and dad, for without you, *I* would not exist

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CHAPTER ONE – PRETTY PLEASE!!!!

From: Mark Finlay – January 2, 2011 – 9:03 AM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Pretty Please!!!!

Thanks for staying late to help me clean up yesterday. You know I just can't go to sleep with dirty dishes in the sink, streamers on the walls, empty champagne bottles that need recycling, dirt tracked onto the hard wood floors, etc. You know me. ;) You're a real pal. Oh, Ralph really liked Shelley. He plans to give her a call this week. He really thinks she could be "the one," but don't tell her I told you.

Okay. Now to the subject of this email. I know you will think I'm a major loser and a dork – not that you already don't ;) – but my New Year's resolution is to try an online dating service and I don't want to do it alone. I know this year will be a busy one for me, trying to develop the cell phone game sequel, but I also feel like it's the right time to meet the right girl. Hence, Pretty Please!!!! Come on – it will be a great way to meet new people and you never know, the man of your dreams may be hooked up to a UNIX system right now. Pretty Please!!!!

From: Renee Greene – January 3, 2011 – 9:16 AM

To: Shelley Manning

Subject: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Have I really gotten this desperate? I know I promised myself that I would try anything if I wasn't married, engaged, seriously dating, had a prospect or at least a house full of cats, by my 30th birthday. Well, with 25 days to go, do I dive in this way? Help?

Oh, by the way. Ralph seems to think you are “the one.” One night stand is more like it... Tee Hee! ;)

From: Shelley Manning – January 3, 2011 – 9:38 AM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Poor Ralphie. Poor stupid Ralphie. Well despite the raging hangover and Finlay’s anal retentive tendencies, it was a great party. But, it’s a party for Christ’s sake. Every time I put my drink down on the table, he was either throwing the cup in the trash or shooting me dirty looks for not using a coaster. That boy has got to light-en up! Talk about panties in a wad. What he needs is a good screw. Which leads me to your question. (Nice segue, huh?) As far as the online dating thing goes... **Yes, you are that desperate.** ;) I say give it a try. No harm. No foul. Finlay’s right. (Don’t tell him those words uttered from my lips – or in this case from my fingertips! He would never let me live it down!) You never know what might happen. At the very least, you’ll have eligible men taking you to swank restaurants. Hmmm. A whole host of hot and horny single men that I can review, chat with, judge and mock – all while sitting in my office looking very busy. Maybe I should give it a try myself. Lunch tomorrow?

From: Renee Greene – January 3, 2011 – 9:43 AM

To: Shelley Manning

Subject: Re: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Thank you for your generous contribution to the “Flatter Renee Greene’s Ego Foundation.” Next time, don’t be such a tight wad. Okay, I’ll give it a whirl. But you have to promise – I mean promise on a box of cupcakes and a jar of anti-wrinkle cream – that you won’t tell anyone. Not a soul.
Lunch tomorrow is great. Meet you at Mel’s at 12:30.

From: Shelley Manning – January 3, 2011 – 9:58 AM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Of course I agree to keep the secret. If I couldn't keep a secret, then everyone would already know about that time you danced topless on a Cancun tabletop during spring break. I even have the pictures to prove it. Oh yes, there are photos. Multiple photos. They are tucked safely away in a Swiss safe deposit vault. Only two people known to man have the keys. So, you are forever at my mercy. Mwah ha ha ha ha! (Picture me looking really evil with a maniacal tone in my voice as I say that. Much better in person. Trust me.) Now of course if my emails from work are being monitored, I can't accept responsibility for spilling the beans. But, I think the evil corporate trolls here have better things to do than worry about your dating life. Right? Okay. Gotta go. There is a really hot new senior manager that just transferred here from the New York office. Too bad he's not in the HR department. I wouldn't mind being assigned under him...or over him. Whatever his pleasure. ;) Good thing I work in HR and understand the importance of not making harassing, disparaging or inappropriate comments in the workplace. :) Regardless, I've got to go through some paperwork with him. Mwah! Mwah!

From: Renee Greene – January 3, 2011 – 11:59 AM

To: Mark Finlay

Subject: Re: Pretty Please!!!!

Sorry so late in responding. Didn't check my work email over the weekend. My response: Ugh! I'm not certain I want to be with a man that even knows what a UNIX system is. But, I guess UNIX is better than Eunuchs. Ha! Ha! Okay, obviously this situation is making me a bit uncomfortable and as a result I've resorted to

homonym humor. But I do crack myself up. Okay. I apologize. Please disregard. Okay, I'm in. Feeling a bit desperate, but willing to give it a shot. What do I need to do?

From: Shelley Manning – January 3, 2011 – 2:02 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Okay, so the new guy isn't as hot as I thought. I guess when you get a three-second glimpse of someone walking down the hall through a small glass partition in a conference room, it's hard to make a solid judgment. But, he's pretty cute, in a preppy kind of way. He's got really nice blue eyes, too. From now on, he will be here to forth known as Preppy Dude. We're going for drinks after work tonight. So, did Finlay pee himself when you said you would do this online dating thing with him?

From: Ashley Price – January 3, 2011 – 4:45 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Convent Bound

Sister Mary Catherine, my old teacher at St. Francis' Sunday school, had the right idea. I'm convinced I was destined to be a nun, because there is NO ONE GOOD LEFT. I just don't know what to do anymore. New Year's was a disaster. Evan and I are over...for good this time.

It started out fine enough. He came by to pick me up and was 20 minutes late. Okay, I thought. I could let this slide...again. But really, is it too much to ask my boyfriend to show up on time, especially when we were going to "the club?" So, I asked him why it was so hard to pick me up on time and it just spiraled from there.

Oh, did I mention that his tuxedo pants were too short? I told him he should buy, not rent, but he just doesn't listen.

So anyway, we're arguing in the car and I ask that he please just make an effort. It's New Years, the annual ball, and he's meeting all of my parents' friends for the first time for goodness sake. And I know I'm a little stressed out. I mean, I really want everyone to like him. And what's not to like, right? He's smart and comes from a good family. I mean granted, he could do a lot more than be a teacher. I know he likes teaching in the inner city and gets a lot of satisfaction from it, but he could be a lawyer or a doctor. But he's pursuing his heart, right?

Well, he proceeds to hit on the waitress (a waitress!?!), get WILDLY drunk and PASS OUT in the men's room. I've never been more mortified. But you would have been proud. It was like a scene from a movie. I poured a champagne bucket of ice water over his head and told him we were through. My parents drove me home.

I'm okay now. I realize we just weren't right for each other. And I know I deserve better. So, I'm giving up on dating. That's it. I'm resigning myself to a life of loneliness and solitude.

How was Mark's party? Did you have fun?

From: Renee Greene – January 3, 2011 – 5:00 PM

To: Ashley Price

Subject: Re: Convent Bound

I'm so sorry, Ashley. I know you were really hoping it would work out this time. Don't give up. There's someone out there just perfect for you. We all had a good time at Mark's party. Shelley and I are meeting tomorrow for lunch...12:30 at Mel's. Why don't you meet us there?

From: Ashley Price – January 3, 2011 – 5:15 PM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Convent Bound

I have a lunch meeting tomorrow. Besides, no offense, but I just don't think I could stand to hear more of Shelley's sex-capades. Especially not now. Just reminds me that men come (yes, pun absolutely intended) and then they go. Sorry I'm so depressing. I'll call you later.

From: Mark Finlay – January 4, 2011 – 2:33 PM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Site Selection

Great! Glad you will embark on this journey with me. So, I've investigated the top 20 online dating sites on the Internet and culled the list down to the best four for you. Now you'll need to choose from there based on this list of pros and cons I prepared.

Dating World

PROS: They have thousands of members locally or globally in case you want to meet someone in Katmandu. It's the fastest growing dating site. I even looked them up in Consumer Reports and they were rated #1. It's also completely free, which is great but has a downside. All of the cheapies come here.

CONS: Well, besides the aforementioned, you have to wade through ads, which makes the service free.

Choose Jews

PROS: All of the men are Jewish. Your mother will be thrilled. All of those nice Jewish boys. She always told me if I only were

Jewish, than you and I could be together. Oy! Only \$20 a month and you get lots of anonymity.

CONS: All of the men are Jewish. HA! Just kidding. I know how you feel about the pressure to marry a Jew, keep the religion alive, etc.

SciBer Love

PROS: Does scientific matches. (Hence the SciBer instead of Cyber. Kind of clever, but a bit intellectual. Not sure the masses will really get it.) So you have a better chance of meeting someone who is a good fit.

CONS: No photos allowed. I think online dating should have similar security to the airlines these days, where a current photo ID is required.

Mode

PROS: Geared toward the hip, affluent crowd. This is the site for the beautiful people.

CONS: This is the site for the beautiful people. Not that we aren't beautiful, but do we really want to limit the dating pool to pretentious, wannabe actors/actresses in LA? \$60 a month. Guess they want to weed out the undesirables, or at least the ones with small balance sheets.

I can send you my thoughts on the other sites if none of these seem to meet your needs. I'm still trying to figure out which one makes the most sense for me.

Once you pick a site, you'll need to write a profile. Profile formats vary by site. You'll probably need to put in some personal basics, choose from a list of interests and then write some brief essays. Let me know if you have any questions.

From: Renee Greene – January 4, 2011 – 4:59 PM

To: Shelley Manning

Subject: Re: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Mark was quite pleased and in true "Finlay Fashion" - as you would call it - has already reviewed all of the top sites and provided me with a pros and cons list of each that would be best for me. What have I gotten myself into? Not the online dating thing. No, I'm talking about entering a project with Mark.

You know I love him. Have ever since the 7th grade when he alphabetized my bat mitzvah invitations for me and set up a spreadsheet for me to track thank you notes. But the boy is so ANAL. Have fun with Preppy Dude. Don't do anything I wouldn't do. Oh wait. Considering I haven't been on a date in over a year, that would rule out much of anything fun. And Lord knows, you like to have fun ;)

From: Shelley Manning – January 4, 2011 – 5:03 PM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Fwd: Pretty Please!!!!

Damn right I do!

From: Renee Greene – January 5, 2011 – 8:58 AM

To: Shelley Manning

Subject: The Scoop

So, what happened with Preppy Dude last night? Good time? Do tell. You know I live vicariously through you. Details!!!

From: Shelley Manning – January 5, 2011 – 9:25 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: The Scoop

Mixed reviews. The good news. Great sex!!! Who knew he had it in him. Or should I say in me. HA! (I think I've been watching too many "Sex in the City" reruns.) Anyway, the bad news: He's a - I shudder the thought - CUDDLER. You know how I HATE that. Why, oh why must such an amazing romp be spoiled by the heinous act of cuddling. UGH! But, I think I can break him of the habit. At least I'm going to try. It would be well worth it. Trust me. Mwah! Mwah!

From: Renee Greene – January 5, 2011 – 9:43 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: The Scoop

How horrible for you. A cuddler. <Insert sarcastic tone>. Great sex and someone who doesn't want to jump out of bed and go home. <Yes, more sarcasm.>

Sorry. I just don't know how you are constantly meeting these men when I've resorted to whittling down my life to a few short paragraphs so as to intrigue a man to want to talk with me further. Sorry. Turning 30 and no one to take me out is a bit depressing.

From: Shelley Manning – January 5, 2011 – 9:48 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: The Scoop

What do you mean, no one to take you out? Okay, I'll admit that Finlay IS chopped liver. Well, a goyish version of chopped liver. But, I'm certainly caviar with a mojito on the side.

From: Renee Greene – January 5, 2011 – 9:54 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: The Scoop

I know. You guys are great. Ashley's coming too, along with a group of friends from work. I don't mean to sound ungrateful. I guess when I look back, I always thought that by 30 I'd be married with three kids. And here I am, with a few weeks to go, and I'm not even dating anyone. Okay, pity party of one, here. Sorry.

From: Shelley Manning – January 5, 2011 – 9:59 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: The Scoop

So, Ashley's coming. Great. Miss Priss. That'll make for a fun evening.

But on to important matters. You are a truly wonderful woman and person. You will meet someone. You will get married. You will have your three kids. You just need to have faith and you just need to get out there. You're never going to meet someone sitting at home and lamenting over Derrick. It's been over a year and you haven't gotten on with things. I don't mean to sound harsh (unless we're talking about Miss Priss of course) but it's time for some tough love - not the S&M kind although that could be fun ;) - and I do love you.

From: Renee Greene – January 5, 2011 – 10:05 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: The Scoop

It's PRICE not Priss. You are the devil incarnate. No, I know. You're right. It's just easier to sit at home, eat cupcakes and feel

sorry for myself than risk getting hurt. But, it's a new year and a new plan.

From: Shelley Manning – January 5, 2011 – 10:07 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: The Scoop

Priss, Price. Same difference. :) See you at 12:30.

From: Renee Greene – January 5, 2011 – 1:58 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: How do you do it!?!?

I just don't get it. I mean don't get me wrong. You're awesome. But, I just don't know how you do it. That handsome, wannabe actor, underwear-model-looking waiter was just gushing over you.

And don't think I didn't see him slip you his number. Good looking, yes. Subtle and bright, no. Greene may be my last name, but it is an ugly color on me. UGH!

So, are you going to call him, or are you getting serious with the Cuddler? HA! I just laughed out loud as I was typing that. No offense or anything. First of all, don't see you getting serious with ANYONE, let alone some lame, girly guy.

From: Shelley Manning – January 5, 2011 – 2:43 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: How do you do it!?!?

No offense taken. You're right. I'm not interested in getting serious with anyone. Why settle down when I'm having so much fun? So, handsome, wannabe actor, underwear-model-looking waiter, here I

come. And, hopefully, when I say here I come...well you're a smart girl, you know where this is heading. (HA! An unintentional pun, to boot.)

And, speaking of being a smart girl, how many times do I need to tell you how beautiful, witty, charming and fabulous you are? You are Supermodel Renee, for Christ's sake! You just need to start believing it yourself. No more of this pity shit. Get over it. Okay!!!!???

From: Renee Greene – January 5, 2011 – 3:30 PM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: How do you do it?!?

Yes ma'am! Will do my best.

From: Ashley Price – January 6, 2011 – 9:07 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Lunch scoop

So, how was lunch at Mel's? How many guys did Shelley pick up? How much sex is she having?

On another note, Evan called, apologized, sent flowers, etc. etc. But this time I'm not falling for it. It's over.

From: Renee Greene – January 6, 2011 – 3:12 PM
To: Ashley Price
Subject: Re: Lunch scoop

Lunch was typical as usual. There is a new waiter there who was incredibly hot and incredibly into Shelley. New year, but nothing's

new. You know I love her, but it's hard being the girl guys always approach in bars only to say, "Hi. Who's your friend?"

Yes, you deserve far better than Evan. What you need to do is erase his phone number from your cell, don't answer his calls and texts, send back the flowers, etc. I mean he's a decent guy and all, but you just never seem happy when you're with him. At the end of the day, I just want you to be happy.

From: Ashley Price – January 6, 2011 – 4:45 PM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Lunch scoop

I know. I know. I'm NOT going to call him back.

Regarding Shelley, yes, I know you are very loyal to her and she's certainly been a good friend. But if I were a guy, I would pick you over her in a heartbeat. You've got style, class and a great sense of humor. Just need to try something new with your hair. So, buck up. This is a new year and I feel like good things are just around the corner for you. Gotta run. Work beckons.

From: Renee Greene – January 9, 2011 – 3:36 PM

To: Mark Finlay

Subject: Re: Site Selection

Okay, Mark. I don't think I could live with the Jewish guilt by bringing home someone who couldn't appreciate a good corned beef sandwich or my bubbies matzo ball soup. So, Choose Jews it is. I'm going to write my profile this weekend and will be emailing it to them. Thanks for pushing me into doing this. I think it's going to be good for me.

From: Mark Finlay – January 9, 2011 – 5:55 PM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Site Selection

I always know what's good for you. Why you haven't figured that out by now is beyond me. Well, I've narrowed down my list of prospective services down to four. Still doing a bit of research and getting a few references for each. With my future wife on the line, you just can't be too careful.

From: Renee Greene – January 13, 2011 – 11:35 PM
To: member.services@choosejews.com
Bcc: Shelley Manning, Mark Finlay
Subject: Profile for Site

I'm a new member...Renee Greene. Here is my completed profile. My ID# is 49628; Screen Name: PRGal1981. Thanks!

AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 5'1"
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Brown
ASTROLOGICAL SIGN: Taurus
AFFILIATION: Reform

FAVORITE CUISINE: Italian, Caribbean, California-Fusion, Chinese/Dim Sum, Japanese/Sushi, Middle Eastern Barbecue, Deli, French, Greek, Indian, Mexican, Middle Eastern, Thai, Cajun/Southern, Continental, Eastern European, Mediterranean

INTERESTS: art galleries, theatre, restaurants, movies, comedy clubs, museums, concerts, bookstores, shopping malls, intimate conversations, cooking, listening to music, shopping, traveling, watching videos, hanging out with friends, taking long walks, wine tasting, antique stores/flea markets, reading, coffee houses

MY PERSONALITY TRAITS: friendly, kind, artistic, easygoing, flexible, humorous, intellectual, nurturing, romantic, sensitive, talkative, witty

OCCUPATION: Public Relations Director

MORE ABOUT ME: I've never been really comfortable talking about myself. So, in an effort to seem incredibly modest, I thought it would be better to share what I think other people would say about me. My parents would describe me as loving, compassionate and fiercely independent. My friends would say I'm fun, easy going, funny and incredibly loyal. My co-workers and boss would say I'm smart, savvy and ambitious in my career. My nephew would say I'm incredibly silly, but play a highly-competitive game of "Chutes and Ladders." Other things about me of interest: I cry at Hallmark commercials, love the band Spider Fire, enjoy baking and cooking (and make the world's greatest chocolate chip cookies - no exaggeration here!), sing (sometimes off key) with the radio while driving, own more pairs of black shoes than should be legal, and my fear of flying is rivalled only by my love for chocolate.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM PAST RELATIONSHIPS: Maybe the toilet seat should be up. SportsCenter on ESPN is funny. No, these pants do NOT make me look fat. Which one is Beavis and which is Butthead. Asking for directions IS bad. Seriously, I've learned that you need to be honest, forgiving and willing to communicate for a relationship to succeed. And a sense of humor and ability to laugh at yourself goes a long way.

CHAPTER TWO – UNSUITABLE SUITORS

From: member.services@choosejews.com – January 14, 2011 – 1:03 AM
To: Renee Greene
Bcc: Shelley Manning, Mark Finlay
Subject: Re: Profile for Site

Thank you for submitting your profile to Choose Jews, the number one dating website for the Jewish community. Your screen name is <PRGal1981>. As other members become interested in communicating with you, they will email you at meet@choosejews.com/PRGal1981. To read the message, simply login to the site using your ID number and confidential password <*****>. Click on the message to open. You will see the member's profile and photo below their initial message. If you decide to write back, simply click "reply" in the member's note, write your own note and send. All communications with other members stay on the Choose Jews Web site so that you never have to give out any personal information. When you are comfortable, you can exchange personal information with other members. Thank you for selecting our service. Please contact member.services@choosejews.com with any questions.

From: meet@choosejews.com/L'Chiam22 – January 14, 2011 – 5:54 AM
To: meet@choosejews.com/PRGal1981
Subject: Shalom

Shalom, PRGal1981. Don't know your real name...yet :)

You seem like a really smart and interesting person and I think we would have a lot in common. I'm originally from New York –

Queens to be specific – but made Alliyah to Israel a little more than 8 years ago. I had visited when I was 13 for my Bar Mitzvah and felt a spiritual connection to the land and to my people. So, when an opportunity came up to transfer from the Internet company I worked for to the Tel Aviv office, I jumped at it. When the Internet boom went bust, so did my job. But I decided to stay and found work as a computer engineer for a software developer.

I live in Tel Aviv and am looking for a spiritual woman to share a Jewish life with.

From: Renee Greene – January 14, 2011 – 9:04 AM

To: Shelley Manning

Subject: Fwd: Shalom

Okay, so I sent my profile in last night and thought I would take a chance that someone emailed me this morning. Yes, I know that seems egotistical thinking that someone would email me so quickly after my profile was posted. And considering it didn't officially go online until 1:00 am, I'm not sure I want to date anyone who was trolling the Internet for a date in the wee hours of the morning. But, to be honest, I'm kind of excited about the possibilities. Imagine that. Me...being hopeful. Who knew? Anyway, I was elated – yes, elated – to find I had a message. Hurrah! Then I read it. He is very religious, is looking for a “spiritual” woman and lives in Israel. Good lord! (HA! Maybe that does indeed make me “spiritual” enough for this guy.) Israel!!! Okay, don't get me wrong. I have nothing against Israel. I am one of the Chosen People after all. And, apparently “chosen” in more ways than one, huh? But do you picture me living in an area where 1) Most people take the bus – I'm from LA for goodness sake, where we LIVE in our cars. In fact, I have this theory that no one walks in LA. But, we all own treadmills. So, even though it is nice all year long, we won't walk outside. We'd rather walk in our houses. But, I digress. Back to what's important here: 2) These

buses blow up into fiery messes; 3) And speaking of fiery messes, it is hot in Israel. Yes, yes. It's a dry heat. But you know what? A blast furnace is a dry heat. But it's still HOT and I wouldn't want to live in it. Yeah, right. Like I'm going to start a relationship with some man in Israel.

And, he is so intense about Judaism. I haven't been to temple since my nephew's baby naming three years ago. Oh, this would NEVER work. NEVER.

So, how do I get out of this? Do I ignore his message? Do I email back and say thanks but no thanks? Yikes! I'm not sure what to do?

From: Shelley Manning – January 14, 2011 – 10:45 AM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Fwd: Shalom

Step 1. Revise your profile. No spiritual junkies or out of towners accepted.

Step 2. Email him back and tell him you are not interested in a long distance thing.

Step 3. Laugh your ass off. He obviously does NOT know you.

Okay. So this one isn't going to work out. But, to your point, it's only been a few hours. And, in this man's defense, it's probably not 1:00 am his time. It's like two days later and early evening or something. So, it is flattering that he thinks you are the funny, smart and...okay, maybe not "spiritual" but certainly awesome... person that you really are. You're going to get a TON of emails and have your pick of tons of great guys. Just you wait. Trust me.

Speaking of great guy, going out again with The Cuddler tonight. Hoping to break him of his bad habits. I'm willing to use force if necessary. Hope he likes it rough ;) Gotta run. Evil corporate trolls demanding reports. Call me tonight. Mwah! Mwah!

From: meet@choosejews.com/PRGal1981 – January 14, 2011 – 11:30 AM

To: meet@choosejews.com/ L'Chiam22

Bcc: Shelley Manning

Subject: Shalom back

Dear L'Chiam22. Thank you very much for your nice email. I must confess yours is the first email I've received. It's quite flattering, especially to have someone from so far away take an interest. Thank you. But, I also must confess that I'm looking to meet someone local. So, best of luck in meeting that woman of your dreams. I'm sure she's out there.

From: Shelley Manning – January 14, 2011 – 11:34 AM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: Shalom back

Nicely done, sweetie. Ever the diplomat.

From: Renee Greene – January 14, 2011 – 11:47 AM

To: Shelley Manning

Subject: Re: Shalom back

It's so much easier to reject someone over the Internet than in real life. Score one for online dating!

From: Renee Greene – January 14, 2011 – 1:36 PM

To: Mark Finlay

Subject: THE SCOOP!

Got my first email today from a gentleman suitor. It was a bit of a rush, I must say. But, he lives in Israel and I'm not really looking for a long distance thing. I don't even think I could date anyone who lived in the Valley. What about you? Lots of women clamoring over you? Do tell.

From: Mark Finlay – January 15, 2011 – 10:30 AM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: THE SCOOP!

Oh, I'm still looking into services. I've narrowed it down to two based on referrals from people who have tried them. Also, I read on the Web that in a few weeks the new Consumer Reports comes out and rates the best online dating services. So, I'm going to wait and review the article before making a decision.

But, very excited for you. Go girl! Okay that sounds totally ridiculous coming from me, doesn't it? I'm just not one of those types who can get away with the slang expressions. So, let me rephrase. Good for you! I'm confident you are going to get a lot of emails. You're smart, pretty and lots of fun. Keep me posted.

Also, how many of us will there be for your birthday dinner. Also, do you have any place in mind, or do you want to be surprised? Either way, I want to be sure and get a reservation in.

From: Renee Greene – January 15, 2011 – 4:45 PM

To: Mark Finlay

Subject: Re: THE SCOOP!

Oh, surprise me. But, be warned. If I see one – and I mean one – “Over the Hill” decoration, gag gift or piece of paraphernalia, you will pay a very high price. A very high price indeed. You don't want me as an enemy. And you know I hold a grudge. Okay, so I'm

not the best intimidator. Hard to be fierce and menacing when you stand 5'1" and look 12. But, I have to tell you, I'm finding this birthday a bit daunting. Turning 30 is always hailed as this depressing milestone. As someone going through it, to someone who has another six months to go, it's all true. This sucks!

From: Mark Finlay – January 16, 2011 – 12:10 PM

To: Renee Greene

Subject: Re: THE SCOOP!

I've been duly warned. And yes, I do know how you hold a grudge. When you've been friends with someone for more than 20 years, you learn all that kind of stuff.

From: Renee Greene – January 16, 2011 – 2:30 PM

To: Mark Finlay

Subject: Re: THE SCOOP!

Thanks. If I'm going to suffer the indignity of ungracefully entering old age, I'm glad I'll have my best buds there to watch me go kicking and screaming into my thirties. Okay, I'm being a bit (read: overwhelmingly) dramatic. It's in my nature. And, since you've known me for more than 20 years, you already know that. Okay, gotta run.

From: Mark Finlay – January 17, 2011 – 9:04 AM

To: Shelley Manning, Ashley Price, Renee Greene

Subject: Renee is turning six (and two dozen)

Yes, you read correctly. We are celebrating Renee's 6th (and two dozen) birthday. (I know you are displeased with entering your 30's, so I figured, why do it? Turn six...again.) So, to celebrate her 6th birthday, we are having the party at Pizza Party Zone near

Culver City. Won't that be a ton of fun?!? We'll eat pizza, play arcade games and have our photo taken with the silly frog mascot. Check out this link to the evite. Hoping you can proofread it before I invite everyone?

From: Shelley Manning – January 17, 2011 – 9:10 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Fwd: Renee is turning six (and two dozen)

Don't worry. I am now in charge of your birthday celebration. I will let Finlay know that we are NOT going to Pizza Party Zone. Just what you need...and we need. Screaming brats. Greasy pizza. Video games. What the HELL was Finlay thinking?

From: Renee Greene – January 17, 2011 – 9:15 AM
To: Shelley Manning
Subject: Re: Fwd: Renee is turning six (and two dozen)

Thank you. I just read Mark's email and started to have a bit of a panic attack. You're so lucky your birthday isn't until December. But, I'm surprised you don't want to go the Pizza Party Zone. With screaming brats come cute single dads. (Tee Hee!)

From: Shelley Manning – January 17, 2011 – 9:18 AM
To: Renee Greene
Subject: Re: Fwd: Renee is turning six (and two dozen)

Cute single dads? Pizza Party Zone, here we come. JUST KIDDING. Don't worry. I'll come up with something fab and perfectly fitting for this momentous occasion.

From: Shelley Manning – January 17, 2011 – 3:00 PM

To: Mark Finlay

Subject: Re: Renee is turning six (and two dozen)

Finlay! Renee does not want to go to Pizza Party Zone for her birthday. I'm sure she appreciated the sentiment, but I think she would prefer a quiet dinner with her closest friends. I've got us a reservation at Alex's on Melrose for 9:00. We can all meet at my place at 8:00 for a pre-dinner mojito. I'll let everyone know the plan.

From: meet@choosejews.com/OutdoorDude – January 17, 2011 – 4:03 PM

To: meet@choosejews.com/PRGal1981

Subject: Hello there

Hi there PRGal. My name is Kevin. I was checking out the site this morning and came across your profile. You seem like a really smart and outgoing person. As for me, I'm originally from Nebraska and have been living in LA for two years. I moved out here to try my luck at movies and ended up doing personal training for celebrities. But I got a bit fed up with the egos. So now I work as a counselor for Outward Adventure programs, which take at-risk youth, corporate teams and others on outdoor adventures. It's great to enjoy the sunshine and see how the challenges of nature and teamwork can change someone's life. When I'm not working, I'm usually working out, playing sports or taking a bike ride. I'm looking for someone who is going to be the perfect compliment to me. Check out my profile and see what you think. Will look forward to hearing back from you.

From: Renee Greene – January 18, 2011 – 9:25 AM

To: Shelley Manning; Mark Finlay

Subject: Fwd: Hello there