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THE FIRST EMAIL BETWEEN RACHEL AND CLIFF

1. Verb - Present Ends In Ing _____
2. Verb - Present Ends In Ing _____

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1) Hi Rachel!

In the true spirit of _____Verb - Present ends in ING_____ that can only be spun by a couple of girls with too much _____Verb - Present ends in ING_____ on their hands, it was suggested to me by Laura and Shannon to have a coffee with you. In their industrious and thinly veiled attempt to align two people together who happen both to be 'nice' and 'single' (a perfect match!) they failed to consider the disastrous social consequences of trying to set up an accountant with a guy who majored in mathematics. I see the inevitable laughter about how a nearby building was clearly not apportioned using the golden ratio, and I shudder a bit.

Oh yeah - you've been to Uganda, and I've taught English in Russia. Oh and we both like gum. Maybe there's hope after all.

Seriously R; I do appreciate the attempt to have Laura and Shannon introduce me to you. They have been in my corner since I've known them, and I know they care about me a lot. They speak highly of you, which is great because I'd have concerns if they assumed my best options were the hunchback living in the trailer down by the river. They also know that it's tough being alone when

I least expected it. Don't know if you feel similarly.

At this point I don't think I'm desperate to unsinglefy myself, but it is comforting to meet a nice single girl or two, casually and with no expectations. It's hard not to assume life will be merely 'managed' and not 'shared' now that I'm busy with family and work, and so meeting a like-minded girl would bring a breath of healing. I think it would only do so though if the expectation was just making another friend. If that changes down the road, great, but I don't want to get into a situation where you or I are hurt with unmanaged expectations. I'm not all that keen on too much emotional damage these days.

That being said, it would be lovely to find out more about you, and maybe someday grabbing a coffee. I know you were deeply impacted by your time in Uganda, and I love hearing about people who have allowed others to claim a bit of their heart that, no matter where they end up, will always remain

behind. It speaks to the depth of the individual and the character God is refining.

Oh, and I'm left handed.

Enjoy the sunshine

cliff

2) Hi Cliff

Thanks so much for your email. One would think that with age and experience on our side, "this" would get less awkward; however, I'm still waiting for that day to arrive!

I appreciate your candidness, desire to protect others' feelings, and, as an English major, your finely crafted paragraphs :) I'll try to respond in kind...

While I certainly wouldn't consider myself to be at the desperate stage (yet - ask me again next Tuesday!), I am at a place in my life where I'm looking for a relationship that will lead to a life-long commitment. This sounds really serious when I re-read it! And while I know that relationships evolve and change over time, I'm not sure that I'm prepared to begin one with the knowledge that the hoped-for end result could potentially be very different

for the two parties involved. In my experience, "just friends" for our demographic is a risky proposition. You'd be surprised how many guys are pining over me ;)

I know that I can't fully appreciate how difficult the last year has been for you, and very much respect your desire not to enter into any sort of relationship with expectations involved. If and when you get to a place where emotional availability is an option, I'd love to hear about Russia, tell you about Uganda, and have a bubble-gum blowing contest.

R

P.S. I'm right-handed. But also a firm believer that opposites attract...

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