

IN&OUTNIGHT

LOVE

Fancy going on a date with this hottie, courtesy of Lite?

**NAME** James Bailey  
**AGE** 24  
**OCCUPATION** Company director  
**RELATIONSHIP HISTORY** Interesting  
**CELEB CRUSH** Charlize Theron or Sienna Miller  
**PERFECT LONDON NIGHT OUT** Nice wine, nice food and a great West End show



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# Are we

## Our couple were looking for the right ingredients to make sweet romance

**CATHERINE AUDIS, 24**, a trainee accountant from Hackney, chose to date **Scott Hall, 25**, a trainee stockbroker from Southend, as she liked his banter in his profile. We sent them to make sumptuous chocolate puddings to see if they acquired a taste for one another's company.

**SHE SAYS:** SCOTT instantly made a good impression by arriving early for our date. He said he was determined not to be late for me, which I thought was very sweet of him.

Part of the reason I'd chosen Scott was because I thought he seemed fun, up for a good time, and like he wouldn't take himself too seriously. We were to spend a whole afternoon together at L'Atelier Des Chefs in W1, eating and learning to cook, which is a long time to spend with a stranger. Initially I was apprehensive, but as the date got going I found I was enjoying myself and the afternoon seemed to be speeding by.

We did the whole "first date conversation" thing, starting with what we do and where we're from, and talked about what we would have been doing that afternoon if we weren't on the date.

Our respective hobbies were the first sign that we had very different interests: I do yoga at the weekend, whereas Scott is really into music and clubbing, and would love to run his own club night. I was impressed — creativity is something I look for in my ideal man, along with aspiration, and Scott had both.

The restaurant where we ate lunch before our cookery class really spoiled us and the food was lovely. We had cocktails to start, and both chose the same main course: chicken and prawn supreme.

We were having such fun that we ended up being late for our cookery lesson, which didn't go down well with the chef. The pudding class was great fun, but from the point of view of getting to know one another, we preferred the restaurant as it gave us a proper chance to chat.

Scott isn't someone I think I'd ordinarily

### Single FILE

What happened when we sent two Lite readers for a date learning how to make puddings?

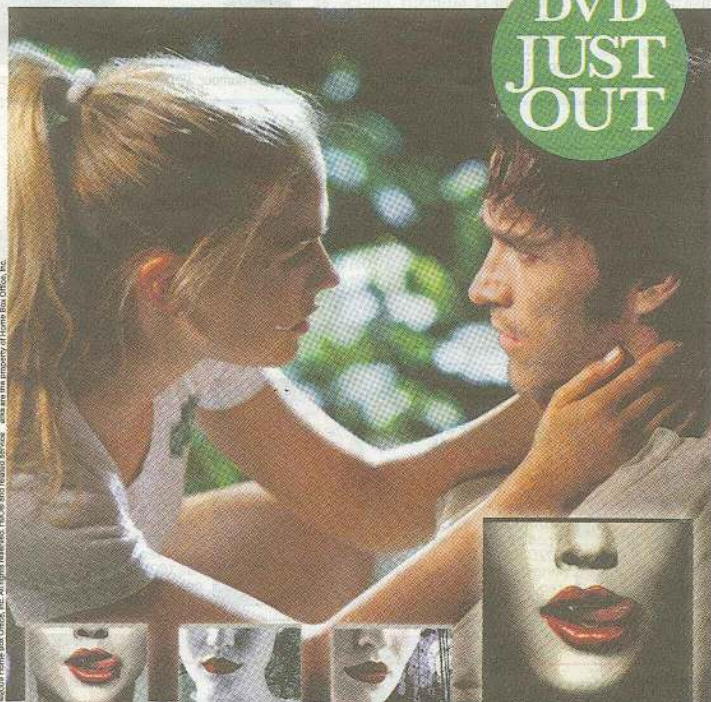
have met in a bar — we hang out in very different places — so it was good to get the chance to meet someone I wouldn't normally meet, but it was clear we didn't have loads in common.

At first, I didn't fancy Scott. Later though, I began to wonder if I should reconsider my first impression. Thinking back now though, there was just no spark and I think that feeling was mutual. He was a really nice guy but there was no love in the air.

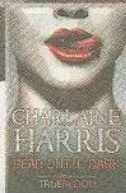
I do know that neither of us came away from the date thinking, "Oh my God it was amazing," and maybe if we had, we would find the time to see each other again.

**HE SAYS:** CATHERINE seemed like a nice, fun girl in her profile, so I decided to give a date with her a go. At first I thought there might be some tension between us and that we'd struggle to find things to say, but it didn't turn out like that at all. The first thing I asked her was if she was nervous, and when she replied that she was, I reassured her she wasn't the only one. Both of us were talking a lot to cover our nerves and, as the date went on, we never really stopped chatting. I found Catherine easy-

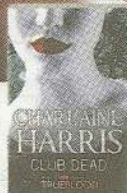
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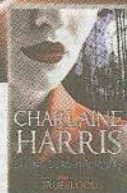
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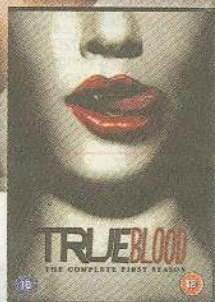
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DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW

### CHEAP DATE

FOR my boyfriend's birthday I decided that rather than downing shots and ending up in the gutter, I'd take him for a civilised meal. I chose **The Larder** (91-93 St John Street, EC1, 020 7608 5558) because of its set meal offer — two courses for £20, including a glass of prosecco. Of course, I ended up ordering à la carte instead. The menu is tantalising. After complimentary hummus and home-made bread we shared succulent hot smoked salmon with capers (£7.50) and mushroom gratin (£5.50), followed by whole sea bass with sautéed potatoes and olives (£14.95) for me, and pork belly with



Relaxed atmosphere: The Larder, EC1 scallops and black pud (£16.95) for him. We had a carafe of malbec (£18.50), which was chocolatey and intense, and for dessert, a perfect sticky toffee pudding. In all, it was a lovely, relaxed evening with great food and wine. There's always the weekend to drink shots. **KELLY, LEYTONSTONE**

# happy ever afters?

Mix and match: Scott and Catherine at L'Atelier Des Chefs, inset below



different backgrounds but I felt we connected well despite that. From the moment we walked into the deVille Restaurant for our meal, we were made to feel welcome. The food and the service were immaculate. Were we flirty over lunch? I don't think so. The vibe was relaxed, but sparks weren't flying. Our chocolate class was already under way when we arrived at the cookery school, so we missed a lot of the initial preparation. The class had a really great atmosphere. We left at about 5pm and were heading in

the same direction on the Tube, so we only got to say goodbye as I was leaping off at my stop. I would need to see Catherine again to really know how I feel about her. I did tell her that if she wanted to meet up I would be willing, but I'm not a chaser. **30 minutes in foodie heaven, including chocolate dessert-making, with Red Letter Days, £49pp. redletterdays.co.uk; deVille Restaurant at the Mandeville Hotel, Mandeville Place, W1 (020 7335 5399, summithotels.com/mandeville)**

INTERVIEW BY SHARON BRENNAN

going and very easy to talk to. We had good conversation about lots of different subjects. She has done a bit of travelling and spent some time abroad thanks to her language degree. We both work in the financial sector now but our previous life experiences have been quite different. She was telling me a few tales from university and I've never been — I went straight into work from school. We have

## POSH DATE

I'M A huge fan of Asian food but my boyfriend tends to avoid it whenever possible, preferring Mexican or Italian. So you can imagine my surprise when he took me for a romantic stroll along the river, followed by dinner at a sexy pan-Asian restaurant. You could say he was a bit cheeky in his choice — in **Chino Latino** (18 Albert Embankment, SE1, chinolatino.co.uk) he'd combined my love of sashimi with his taste for Latin-inspired cocktails. But as we sat down and ordered rum cocktails in the bar before dinner, I



Delicious: pan-Asian Chino Latino, SE1

have to say I didn't mind at all. We started with grilled scallops with wasabi peas and sesame prawn spring rolls — both were delicious, but I particularly enjoyed the chilli and garlic sauce. For our mains we had a mixture of dishes with him leaving me to

gulp down blow-torched salmon sashimi (£8), while he enjoyed the dim sum, especially the chicken sui mai with fole gras and mushrooms. We also shared a Chilean sea bass (£24), which was amazing. I've eaten at some pretty swanky Asian restaurants before but Chino Latino really surprised me with how relaxed it was. Our waiter, Jordan, was brilliant — he recommended a great wine and put the boyfriend at ease with the menu, something many waiters have tried to do before and failed. He was even relaxed when the £85 bill arrived. We'll definitely be heading back there. **USA, WAUXHALL**

Email your restaurant reviews to [love@thelondonlife.co.uk](mailto:love@thelondonlife.co.uk)

## Playing the field Two singletons share their search for love

### My jealousy plot was just pants



winding me up about something and so in true flirt style I pulled my scarf out my bag to whack him playfully. As I swiped the scarf at him, something dropped out in front of us. To my horror, it was a pair of MY KNICKERS. Jack fell about laughing. "Why are your knickers in your bag?!" he asked accusingly. The truth was I had no idea, they must have got caught up in my scarf but there was no point in explaining as the damage was done. No doubt Jack will pass on my mortifying tale. Not exactly the sort of thing I was hoping would get back to my secret crush... FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER.COM/ROMILLY\_LITE

I'VE experienced dating karma this week. I accepted a date with a guy purely to make someone I like jealous. It seemed a harmless plan but it turned out to be one of the most embarrassing dates of my life. The guy in question — we'll call him Jack — is a serious player. I've steered clear of him as he's the sort who'd tell all his friends every minor detail. But this was a strategic move — I knew he would talk about me with the other boys and hoped it would spark a hidden desire in my secret crush. It seems pathetic now but at the time I was convinced it would work. Jack said we were going somewhere I should "dress up for" — classic flash-the-cash move — so I glammed up and by the time I arrived (fashionably late, of course) I was getting butterflies. After all, he is very good-looking. Maybe I could start to fancy him... We set off to The Donovan Bar which has a great table called The Naughty Corner with naked photographs on the walls. So, being in a good mood, the flirting kicked in. Jack was

### Breaking the rules of cool



Charlie Parrish, centre

SINCE meeting Grace I've thought of little else — probably due to her emails. She's really, really funny. I've also picked up a few facts from our pre-first date correspondence. She works at an art museum, she never wears jeans, is obsessed by old folk singers and loves potato waffles. Now, planning a first date with someone who isn't an "All Bar One and Pizza Express" girl is quite tricky. But I didn't have to worry too much because last Friday, while my workmates and I were in our usual after-work pub, Grace and her friends sashayed through the doors. I didn't think she'd spotted me and as I didn't want to mess up the healthy email flirting with some boozey small talk, I stayed where I was. Until, around three pints later, I got a tap on my shoulder. "Oh my God, Charlie! How long have you been in here?" she grinned. A positive sign. "Ages!

Have you just got here? Can't believe I didn't notice you!" My slurred white lie didn't sound convincing, but then she suggested I bring my mates over to where she and her friends were. Before I could answer, she dragged me by the arm, reintroduced me to her friends and motioned for my all-too-eager mates to come over. The boy-girl mix worked perfectly, we got rip-roaringly drunk and Grace charmed everyone. Come closing time, she pulled me to one side. "I know we've not even had our first date yet," she whispered, "but would it be breaking the rules if we kissed?" I realised how attractive her boldness was. She didn't care about dating one-upmanship or seeming cool. So I told her that it definitely wouldn't be breaking any rules... FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER.COM/CHARLIE\_LITE