

Save as Draft



A Novel

Cavanaugh Lee



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To Mums, Dad, and Nana
Of course, to “Marty” and “Peter” as well ...

List of E-mail Abbreviations



| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10-4 | message understood |
| a.k.a. | also known as |
| BB | BlackBerry (has also been called “Crackberry”) |
| BFF | Best Friends Forever! |
| blah blah blah | used as an expression for words or feelings where the specifics are not considered important to the speaker or writer for emotions |
| bleah | used to express disinterest or overall tiredness with the subject |
| BRB | be right back |
| a** | ass; swear word |
| btw | by the way |
| Duh | used in response to something said that is too obvious to need to be mentioned |
| FYI | For Your Information |
| Grrr | an onomatopoeia for growling |
| Hmm | used to signify hesitation, a question, or thoughtful consideration of another person’s statement |
| huh? | used to ask a question; often denotes confusion |
| LMAO | Laugh My Ass Off |
| LOL | Laugh Out Loud |
| Luv | a more informal way of saying “love”; often used in place of “love” when using “love” is premature and “luv” is a safer bet |
| MIA | Missing in Action; denotes several days or more between an email exchange |
| OMG | Oh My God |
| OMFG | Oh My F—g God |
| Oops | an onomatopoeia for “making a mistake” |

Rom-Com Romantic-Comedy

Sorta short-hand way of saying “sort of”

TTYL Talk to you later; often used as a mere formality when there is no intention to “Talk to you later”

Ugh used to express horror, disgust, or repugnance

VM Voice Mail

WTF? What the F—k?

;-) wink; denotes “I’m trying to be funny in a joking kind of way”; may also denote flirting

☺ happy face; denotes happiness

☹ sad face; denotes sadness or unrest

JANUARY 2008: DATELESS ... BUT NOT DESPERATE

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 7:31 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Elizabeth**

Subject: **Tough Times All Around**

E—

Did you know that the *single* guy to *single* girl ratio in this city is **1 to 8**????!!!! Is this really true? That can't be true. Ugh, maybe that explains my fourth consecutive month of NOT dating here in the ATL or pseudo-dating (translation: hanging out with best guy friend who has no interest in me sexually otherwise).

I tell ya, it's tough times all around ...

—Izzy

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 7:35 PM**

From: **Elizabeth**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

Online dating. Try it.

And, FYI: your “best guy friend” has been hot for your bod for two years now—don't fish for compliments.

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 7:38 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Elizabeth**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

Online dating will NOT be happening. So unromantic. Not my style. And, no, on the contrary, my “best guy friend” really is just that—my “best guy friend.”

—“Idealistically Opposed to Online Dating Izzy”

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 8:05 PM**

From: **Elizabeth**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

Suit yourself. My friend, Jen, met a guy on eHarmony or Match or whatever the hell and now they're getting married this summer.

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 8:10 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Elizabeth**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

Yeah, right, my luck, it'll be e(DIS)Harmony or NON-Match. I would never, ever subject myself to being rejected ON-line. It's bad enough being rejected IN-person. My computer is the only safe haven I have left.

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 8:12 PM**

From: **Elizabeth**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

Methinks the lady doth protest too much ...

Draft: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 8:13 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Elizabeth**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

This e-mail was written but not sent and will save as Draft until further action.

Fine. I'll consider it. But only to prove you wrong!

Sent: **Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 11:38 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Elizabeth**

Subject: **Re: Tough Times All Around**

Sorry, not gonna happen. I may be dateless, but NOT desperate.

Sent: **Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 9:09 AM**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **eHarmony: ♥ At a Discount–Get 2 Months FREE!**

Get a 3-month subscription for the price of 1! Yes, that means “3 for 1”! Let us make it easier for you to find ♥ by giving you an extra TWO MONTHS FREE.

Subscribe now to find ♥ ♥ ♥!

(Because you asked to be notified of eHarmony Special Offers, we will send you e-mails such as this one on a periodic basis.)

(To unsubscribe from this type of e-mail, please [click here](#) within 15 days of receipt, or contact [customer service](#).)

(Please note this offer expires at the end of the month.)

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2008: IZ (IZABELL) & MARTY (MARTIN)

Sent: **Friday, February 8, 2008 at 11:38 PM**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Martin**

Subject: **About Your Match #137**

Dear Martin,

The "About Me" information below will help you learn more about Your Match #137/ Izabell.

Sincerely,

The eHarmony Team

Izabell cares most deeply about:

- My family, my friends, and my work (in that order). Plus, I'm madly in love with my border collie, Thea. She's seriously the love of my life (so far at least, LOL). Every morning I drive her to doggy day care which is twenty minutes away from my apartment, return to my apartment which is three blocks from work, and walk to the office—that should tell you how much I adore my dog. ;-)

Izabell's friends and family describe her as:

- Passionate
- Outgoing
- Articulate
- Funny

The first thing you'll probably notice about Izabell when you meet her:

- Witty sense of humor (self-deprecating at times).

The one thing Izabell wishes MORE people would notice about her:

- That I'm not quite as frivolous as I may appear. ;-) La-di-da ...

Izabell is most grateful for:

- My incredible parents who are the coolest people in this lifetime
- My amazing friends
- My brain

The qualities Izabell is looking for in a significant other are:

- Funny. Smart. Passionate. Solid, solid, solid family background.

The things Izabell needs to survive are:

- E-mail

- My dog
- Going to the movies on the weekends
- Communication
- Phone conversations with the parents

The person who has changed Izabell's life is:

- My female friends—who have taught me how to be a strong girl.

What Izabell is reading now:

- Mostly magazines—entertainment and political. I'm almost done with *Atlas Shrugged*, though— all 1,200 pages of it, no less. So far, it's the most brilliant book I've ever read (even though I disagree with some of it).

When Izabell grows up she wants to be:

- Hmm, do I have to grow up? Just kidding. I want to still be as happy as I am right now. 😊

Izabell usually spends her spare time:

- Movies, movies, movies. Concocting crazy things to do for fun. And wanting to get out and see Atlanta (but not actually seeing it yet—long story, will tell you about it someday). Oh, and write.

Izabell's favorite place to be is:

- Out and about! (But also at home in my overstuffed chair with a good book and Thea.)

Izabell's best-kept secret is:

- I'm a total and utter nerd.

Some more information Izabell wanted you to know is:

- I'm new to Atlanta. Originally from San Francisco (the most beautiful city in the world with the glorious red bridge), born and raised. Just moved here after finishing law school four months ago. Prior to law school, I was a struggling actress in Hollywood (yep, 'tis true).

Sent: **Friday, February 8, 2008 at 11:47 PM**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **About Your Match #6**

Dear Izabell,

The "About Me" information below will help you learn more about Your Match #6/ Martin.

Sincerely,

The eHarmony Team

Martin cares most deeply about:

- The Beatles B-sides ("I Should Have Known Better"—what a song!)
- Chili-cheese hash browns at The Vortex (it's a restaurant in Atlanta— ever been?)
- Starbucks Venti Iced Caramel Macchiato
- '98 Cakebread Cabernet

- Mel Brooks Movies
 - The first or last five minutes on an eight hour road trip home
-

Martin's friends and family describe him as:

- Generous
- Hard working
- Outgoing
- Optimistic

The first thing you'll probably notice about Martin when you meet him:

- How dashing and handsome I am ... Kidding. Smiling eyes and a positive demeanor.

The one thing Martin wishes MORE people would notice about him:

- That I'm not just a pretty face. Kidding, again.

Martin is most grateful for:

- Belly Laughs
- MapQuest
- The 1980s

The qualities Martin is looking for in a significant other are:

- Word processing skills

The things Martin needs to survive are:

- E-mail
- My Tempur-Pedic Mattress
- Crème Brulee
- Martin guitars
- Spicy Tuna Roll from Ru-Sans

The person who has changed Martin's life is:

- Haven't met her yet. Is it you?

What Martin is reading now:

- *The Cube: Keep the Secret* by Annie Gottlieb, a very interesting mental exercise but I can't tell you, because I have to keep the secret ...

When Martin grows up he wants to be:

- But I'm a Toys "R" Us kid ...

Martin usually spends his spare time:

- In a spare leisure suit

Martin's favorite place to be is:

- At the dinner table with friends enjoying a great meal

Martin's best-kept secret is:

- I once had a hole-in-one ... on a par four ... with a 5-wood.
- I've been to Spain for the running of the bulls (not really, but don't you want to go out with me now?).
- I was in a band called Bad at Bingo (not really, but don't you want to go out with me now?).

Some more information Martin wanted you to know is:

- I work for a large real estate investment firm, doing acquisitions on the West Coast (but I'm based in Atlanta), and am involved with the purchasing of large Class A Commercial Property. I usually travel one week/mo touring properties in cities like San Francisco, Las Vegas, Denver and Portland. But, I promise that I do have time for a relationship! (Oh, no, did I say the word "relationship"???!!!!)

Sent: **Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 8:01 am**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Martin**

Subject: **Answers to Questions 1–5 from Your Match #137**

Dear Martin,

Below are the Answers to your Questions 1–5 from Your Match #137/ Izabell.

Sincerely,

The eHarmony Team

1. When going somewhere:

- a. I am usually the first to arrive
- b. I am usually on time
- c. I am usually late
- d. I am usually a no-show

e. (fill-in response) I am always early (I know, I know—what a dork, you're thinking, but I hate being late!)

2. On Saturday night, would you rather go to:

- a. A play or musical
- b. The mall
- c. A movie or rock concert
- d. A basketball game

e. (fill-in response) Tie between A and C. My background is in theater and film (even though I'm presently a lawyer) so my ideal date always involves the arts in some way; NO sports please.

3. If you could take a dream get-away, where would you most likely choose to spend a week?

- a. **Paris**
- b. Beachfront resort in the Caribbean
- c. Hiking in the woods
- d. A shanty by the sea

e. (fill-in response) I mean, duh, it's Paris, the City of Light!

4. Your idea of a romantic time would be:

-
- a. A long walk on the beach
 - b. Partying at a dance club
 - c. Making dinner together while sipping a good bottle of wine
 - d. A candlelit dinner at a favorite restaurant
 - e. **(fill-in response) All of the above—variety is what makes a relationship romantic.**

5. How often do you exercise:

- a. I don't
- b. Once a week
- c. Every other day
- d. Seven days a week
- e. **(fill-in response) Four times a week (OK, sorta)**

Sent: **Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 9:45 am**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Answers to Questions 1–5 from Your Match #6**

Dear Izabell,

Below are the Answers to your Questions 1–5 from Your Match #6/Martin.

Sincerely,

The eHarmony Team

- 1. If you were taken by your date to a party where you knew no one, how would you respond?
 - a. Stay close to my date and rely on him/her to introduce me to people
 - b. Grab a drink, find a spot at the back of the room by myself, and be a fly on the wall
 - c. Introduce myself to everyone in the room and chat it up
 - d. Tell my date I don't want to go to the party
 - e. **(fill-in response) I'm pretty outgoing, so I think C is the best choice here. Of course, "chat it up" doesn't mean abandon my date ...**
- 2. What best describes your parents' relationship towards each other:
 - a. A loving marriage
 - b. A compatible truce
 - c. A mistake that has luckily been recognized by divorce
 - d. War of the Roses

e. (fill-in response) Thirty-one years of married & loving—a model relationship. I couldn't have better role models.

3. If you went out to eat with a friend, which of the following would you prefer?

- a. A family style Italian restaurant with checkered tablecloths
- b. An expensive 5 star restaurant
- c. An ethnic restaurant with spicy food
- d. A diner with great grub

e. (fill-in response) I like to mix it up so I think all four answers have their merit. I must say I'm in advance though that I'm a big fan of sushi, and I eat it at least twice a week.

4. Would you rather date someone who is available:

- a. On the weekends only because he/she has a busy schedule during the week
- b. On the weekends and certain weeknights but you know when the person will be free
- c. Every single night because he/she works 9 to 5
- d. All the time any time because the person works from home

e. (fill-in response) I'd rather date someone who is emotionally available, rather than physically available. We all have busy schedules as adults. If you feel a connection with someone, you will make time to see them, no matter what.

5. What do you think of "Soul Mates"?

- a. There's a special someone for everyone
- b. A person can have more than one soul mate over time
- c. With time and effort, you can make any person you truly love your soul mate
- d. There's no such thing

e. (fill-in response) A person COULD have several soul mates in a lifetime ... but you only need to find one. ;-)

Sent: **Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 9:02 PM**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **More Answers from Your Match #6**

Dear Izabell,

Below are more Answers from Your Match #6/ Martin. You are almost through eHarmony Guide Communications and onto the next level— talking live to your Match!

Sincerely,

The eHarmony Team

1. Top Favorite Movies (and why)?

- a. Off the top of my head, and in no particular order, I enjoy *The Princess Bride*, *The Goonies*, *Caddyshack*, *High Fidelity*, and *Boiler Room*. I'm also a sucker for mega-dollar special effect movies and some sci-fi stuff (*The Lord of the Rings*). The last movie I remember seeing recently and really enjoying was *Once*. I do the Blockbuster Online thing (What can I say? I'm a sucker for "Online"), and I've become quite a fan of movies in general. How about you? What are your favorites?
2. Describe your parents' relationship.
 - a. Fantastic. Loving. Great communication skills. Happily married.
3. Life goal(s)?
 - a. "The same thing we do every night, Pinky. Try to take over the world." In all seriousness, I'm very ambitious, and most of my career/financial goals are generally aimed at long term philanthropy. I want to be in a position to give back either to my parents, or to my future family, or to society in general. At a basic level, my life goal is to live a long time with a smile on my face.

Sent: **Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 10:34 PM**

From: **eHarmony**

To: **Martin**

Subject: **More Answers from Your Match #137**

Dear Martin,

Below are more Answers from Your Match #137/Izabell. You are almost through eHarmony Guided Communications and onto the next level—talking live to your Match!

Sincerely,

The eHarmony Team

1. Describe an interest you have that you truly hope your partner could share with you.
 - a. My background is in theater and film (even though I'm presently an attorney, or *baby attorney*—I've only been practicing for a short while). I was an actress (or, rather, "waitress"—that waitress/actress) in Hollywood for four years prior to that. I know, I know, great stories, I've got some GREAT stories. So, my partner would have to enjoy seeing movies and going to the theater. Put it this way: I've seen EVERY movie nominated for an Academy Award in all major categories for this year (except for *Sweeney Todd*—didn't have time to see that one because I'm not really into people eating other people). Btw: *Once* was on my Top 5 list for last year—so, good choice on your part. What a film.
2. What do you most like to do on a day off?
 - a. A day off? I don't know what that is ... can you explain? ;-) I'm in the midst of working eight hours a day as an attorney and studying for the California Bar Exam by night (don't ask why I'm a glutton for punishment or just a one-dimensional over-achiever). So, I haven't had a day off since Jan. 2 when I started studying. But, I do vaguely remember what a day off is, and plan to have A LOT of days off in about a week and a half (when the exam is over), so ...

answer to your question, I'd say: 1) see a movie, 2) jog in Piedmont Park with my dog, 3) get my nails done with a girlfriend (yes, I'm a girl), 4) drink a Cadillac Margarita at about 7 PM (maybe 4 PM) with friends at some funky Mexican restaurant, and 5) watch CNN (I'm obsessed with the news).

3. What are you looking for in a relationship partner?

a. I want what my parents have. After thirty-eight years, they still have date nights on Fridays and go to jazz clubs, wine bars, movies, etc. And, they can really talk to each other—you know?—they *talk* to each other and they say what they mean. They're just the best. I want THAT, or nothing at all.

Sent: **Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 10:40 PM**

From: **Marty**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Hello**

Nice to get through “guided communication” and onto real e-mails! 😊

I'm impressed with your love of the arts. I go to lots of movies, shows, etc. (sometimes all by myself and it's a bit lonesome), and it would be great to have a partner in crime with similar interests.

I did some speech and drama way back in high school, and that obviously helped to transition me into a career of real estate and investments. Wait ... never mind. ;-)

I'm probably a fan of music like you are of movies. After watching *Once*, I couldn't put down the (Martin) guitar (pardon the pun). Great film, even better ending, even if it wasn't a conventional “happy” one.

It sounds like you are busy with your exam prep! I've got a couple of friends who passed the Bar, and they still talk about how stressful that time was for them. I'll think some happy thoughts for you on your endeavor.

What sparked the switch from Hollywood to law?

If you can rack enough “cool points” in your reply, perhaps we can meet up for a drink to celebrate you passing the Bar. (Btw, you've already got 10 points for the great smile. You got another 10 for those big brown eyes. And, that long curly black hair ... I'll give you another 10! In other words, thanks for sending the pix! We're off to a good start!).

Looking forward to next time.

—Marty

Draft: **Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 11:59 PM**

From: **Marty**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Hello**

This e-mail was written but not sent and will save as Draft until further action.

So, scratch that last e-mail, or at least the part about you having to rack up enough cool points to me up for a drink. You've *already* racked up those points. And, since you like movies, "You had me a hello." What do you say?

A cup of coffee tomorrow night? Let's do this.

—Marty

Sent: **Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 8:05 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Marty**

Subject: **RE: Hello**

You just earned a bunch of bonus points for your hysterical sense of humor. No joke. (hahahaha)

Anyway, yes, I'm immersed in studying for the Bar. But, it's all over in less than two weeks. Feb 28th, to be exact. I'm from SF originally (but not really the reason why I'm taking the CA Bar—mostly, because, well, to be honest, I'm bored stiff at my law firm job and I thought "why not torture myself for two months to pass another Bar which I probably won't pass since it's nearly impossible to pass"—think 37% passage rate impossible—and also because yes, I may want to go home someday since "there's no place like home, there's no place like home ...").

In any event, yes, I would def be up for drinks to "celebrate" my (non) passage of the CA Bar. In the meantime, I guess we can act out some scenes from *You've Got Mail*. Being the movie expert that you seem to be, I'm assuming you've seen that one ...

Where are you from originally? Real estate development, huh? What else? I'm new to eHarmony (in "two weeks new") so I don't really know how to do this!!!!!! You're only my sixth "match" so far

Am I doing it right???

—Izabell (the eHarmony Virgin—oh snap! did I just put "Virgin" in writing?!)

Sent: **Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 9:46 PM**

From: **Marty**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **You've Got Mail?**

Sixth "match," huh? You're my ... well ... never mind, I've been doing this a little longer than three weeks. :-)

As for points, you actually lost 3 of them for going with *You've Got Mail* if only because it should have been called *Sleepless in Seattle 2: The Search for More Money*.

It's okay ... you got 8 points for your cheery, positive outlook on passing the Bar(s)—Georgia and (soon-to-be) California??? Nice work there. You're obviously not a one-dimensional overachiever, but a two-dimensional one. ;-)

Before you know it, you'll be up to the 500 points needed to get my phone number.

Kidding.

To answer some questions ... I grew up in Kentucky, then took a job in Orlando where I lived for the past three-ish years. I moved to Atlanta, and just bought a house around New Year's.

My job here is more real estate acquisition than development. I work for a real estate fund. Basically a bunch of rich guys pool their money, and then my group and I spend their money on large office buildings in predominantly downtown areas. My region is Denver and everything west of there. I was in Hollywood last week, which became interesting when we sat two tables down from Fabio. Got to love your B-list movie star sightings.

Should be a nice weekend for the Oyster Fest on Saturday. Hopefully the weather cooperates. I'll be sure to hoist an adult beverage in honor of your test prep.

Btw, I can't get eHarmony on my BB, but I do have access to my personal e-mail on there. You can reach me at mcfuller1780@gmail.com. That's probably the best way to get ahold of me.

Only 485 points to go ...

—Marty

Sent: **Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 1:34 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Marty**

Subject: **485 Points**

“485 Points” could be a great movie title. Dontcha think?

This is Izabell, btw, a.k.a. “Izzy” to my best friends, and, other times, just “Iz.” Call me anything you want.

I’m presently fighting a cold while working while e-mailing. Multitasking at its best.

So, where did you stay in LA last week? What restaurant did you dine at while seated near Fabio? I lived in LA for eight years and made it a point to eat out as much as possible even though I was flattered (a** broke at all times. I know all the restaurants, unless it’s a new one.) Did you hit up the bar scene (yep, know the bars, too—oh Lordy, is that a bad thing?)? My two favorite bars of all time are in LA—El Carmen and Lava Lounge (in a neon-lit strip mall on La Brea and Hollywood, no less). Ah, El Carmen brings back such fond memories of dancing on table tops ... ;-) They have these crazy paintings of Mexican wrestlers on the walls. Luv it.

Re. the Oyster Fest, I am envious you’re going this weekend ... I had planned on going, but I’ve got to study. ☹ All of my friends will be there. You may just run into them and not even know it (Try not to pick up any of my girlfriends, OK? That could be complicated, LOL)! I, unfortunately, will be at home doing a last-minute cram session. This totally sucks, btw—working and studying. I am the most social and active person you may ever meet—so, for me to give up my social life since Jan. 2nd hasn’t been easy.

What else? Hmm. I don’t know. Do I still have 485 points to go? I think I should, at the very least, be at 350 since I know all the fun spots in LA, right?

Sent: **Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 3:34 PM**

From: **E-cards from Hallmark**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **A Hallmark E-card from Martin Fuller**

Martin Fuller has sent you a Hallmark E-card.

If you recognize this name, click the link to see your E-card
http://www.hallmark.com/ECardWeb/ECV.jsp?a=EG172755499M2567&product_id=

Want to send an E-card too? Visit www.hallmark.com/ecards

Sent: **Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 5:55 PM**

From: **Izabell**

To: **Marty**

Subject: **Re: A Hallmark E-card from Marty**

Nice move. If I'm at 350 points, then you're at 500 hands down. Love the Valentine's Day e-card. That was bold.

—Izzy

Sent: **Friday, February 15, 2008 at 10:00 AM**

From: **Marty**

To: **Izabell**

Subject: **Re: 485 Points**

Izzy, huh? It reminds me of “dizzy” a bit too much (although you guarantee that you’re “not quite as frivolous” as you may appear), so I think I’ll stick with Iz for now.☺

It seems like the season for fighting colds. I’ve been taking Airborne as a daily supplement to ward off any evil spirits, and so far so good. Unfortunately, I’ve got a feeling I will be imbibing a different kind of evil spirit this weekend at Oyster Fest. Someone in my office just mentioned the possibility that there won’t even be any oysters this year, only shrimp. That’s strange.

To answer your question, we were at Crustacean on Santa Monica Blvd when we saw Fabio. Our hotel was six blocks or so down the street. It was pretty neat to stay in “90210,” and also to see La Cienega, the road mentioned in the Ryan Adams song. Unfortunately, we were out entertaining some colleagues, so we kept our adventures to the restaurant scene rather than the bars.

If you’re feeling better, or need a break from cramming, feel free to give me a ring (my cell is at the bottom). I should be out with some friends in Little Five Points tonight, and then Oyster Fest tomorrow. Here’s hoping you feel better.

—Marty!

Producer, Director, and Star of *485 Points: The Musical*
813-555-0341

Sent: **Friday, February 15, 2008 at 3:31 PM**

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