



*Love,*  
**IRL**

TRACY GOLDFARB

# You've been connected with a stranger. Say Hello!

Because of his social anxiety, Alex finds it easier to deal with people online. When he starts chatting with Dorian, he's not expecting them to have such a great connection — but they do, and Alex and Dorian soon begin an online romance. Everything is going well until Alex starts to have feelings for a boy in his English class. Now he's confused — does he want love online or is he ready for love in real life?

**TRACY GOLDFARB** is a writer and artist who is involved in the LGBTQ+ community. Tracy attended the Ontario College of Art and Design University for sculpture and currently teaches fabrication skills at Humber College. *Love, IRL* is their first YA novel. Tracy lives in Toronto.



## Real Love

Diverse romances for today's teens

RL 3.5 | Teen fiction

**LORIMER**

James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers  
www.lorimer.ca



eBook also available

\$14.95 CAN / \$8.99 US

ISBN-10: 1-4594-1562-0

ISBN-13: 978-1-4594-1562-1



9 781459 415621

Love,  
IRL

TRACY  
GOLDFARB

LORIMER

*Love,*  
**IRL**

**TRACY GOLDFARB**

JAMES LORIMER & COMPANY LTD., PUBLISHERS  
TORONTO

Copyright © 2020 by Tracy Goldfarb  
Published in the United States in 2021.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers acknowledges funding support from the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), an agency of the Government of Ontario. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country. This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada and with the support of Ontario Creates.



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



ONTARIO  
CREATES

Cover design: Tyler Cleroux

Cover image: Shutterstock

9781459415652

eBook also available 9781459415638

Cataloguing data for the hardcover edition is available from Library and Archives Canada.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication (Paperback)

Title: Love, IRL / Tracy Goldfarb.

Other titles: Love, in real life

Names: Goldfarb, Tracy, author.

Series: RealLove.

Description: Series statement: Real love

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20200231731 | Canadiana (ebook) 2020023174X

| ISBN 9781459415621 (softcover) | ISBN 9781459415638 (EPUB)

Classification: LCC PS8613.O442 L68 2020 | DDC jC813/.6—dc23

Published by:	Distributed in Canada by:	Distributed in the US by:
James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers 117 Peter Street, Suite 304 Toronto, ON, Canada M5V 0M3 www.lorimer.ca	Formac Lorimer Books 5502 Atlantic Street Halifax, NS, Canada B3H 1G4	Lerner Publisher Services 1251 Washington Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN, USA 55401 www.lernerbooks.com

Printed and bound in Canada.

Manufactured by Manufactured by Marquis in Toronto, Ontario in August 2020.  
Job #355205

This digital edition first published in 2020 as 9781459415645  
Originally published in 2020 as 9781459415621

*This book is dedicated to all those teenagers, past and present, who had to turn to a screen to find a home for themselves.*

# 01 Perfect Match

**Saturday, September 1, 8:26 PM**

*You've been connected with a stranger. Say hello!*

**Stranger:** hi

**You:** Hello!

**Stranger:** pics?

**You:** Really? That's the first thing you ask?

**Stranger:** isn't that what people do here?

**You:** Not if they want to have a real conversation . . .

**Stranger:** who actually wants a real convo on this site?

**You:** I do. Why, you don't? Why are you here?

**Stranger:** if I said sexting would you judge me?

**You:** Yes.

**Stranger:** well then . . . I'm here to talk to random people

**You:** Nice catch.

**Stranger:** I thought so

so why are you here?

**You:** I dunno. I'm just bored, I guess? I like talking to strangers online. It doesn't matter what I tell them, we'll never meet again. Y'know?

**Stranger:** yeah I get that

so is there anything in particular that you want to talk about?

**You:** Oh, I don't know.

What kind of things do you like?

**Stranger:** I like reading I guess . . .

**You:** What do you like to read?

**Stranger:** well . . .

have you heard of the timetale series?

it's about these kids at a magic school

**You:** Oh my god, that's my favourite! I love the Timetale Series!

**Stranger:** books or movies?

**You:** The books, obviously. Don't get me wrong, the movies are fine. But the books are SO much better. They go into more detail, you actually get to learn about the characters and what makes them tick.

**Stranger:** and I thought I was a dork

**You:** Haha, sorry. I get a little nerdy when I'm talking about things I like.

**Stranger:** don't be sorry

tts is my favourite

**You:** Who's your favourite character?

**Stranger:** seith

**You:** Oh my god, SAME! I love the way they've developed his arc. And the fact that they weren't afraid to make an openly gay character!

**Stranger:** I think the main guy is still gonna end up with a girl though that's how books like this work

**You:** I dunno, I have faith that the author will be willing to change things up a bit . . . Imagine a queer couple as the main love interest!

**Stranger:** it's not gonna happen

when book seven comes out I'll get to say I told you so

**You:** How? We're on RandoChat. It'd be impossible to match with me again . . .



**Stranger:** you could always give me your email address  
that is

if you wanted to continue talking

**You:** . . .

that was pretty smooth :P

Maybe at the end of the chat . . .

**Stranger:** cool

**You:** So . . .

What do you do? Are you in school?

**Stranger:** I'm in high school

what about you mr timetale

what do you study?

**You:** How do you know I'm a guy?

**Stranger:** just a hunch

**You:** Well, I am, but you shouldn't assume that.

**Stranger:** but I was right

**You:** And how do you know I'm in school?

**Stranger:** another educated guess

**You:** Do elaborate, please. How did you make an "educated guess"  
about my age?

**Stranger:** well you like tts

if you were that much older than me you probably wouldn't have  
read the books

if you were that much younger than me you wouldn't have grown  
up with the books and would probably like the movies more  
so I'm guessing you're 17-18ish

I bet I can even guess where you live

**You:** How?

**Stranger:** well

you added a u to favourite so you're not american

I'm gonna guess you're in canada like me

because if you were in australia or uk or something it would be  
pretty late

tell me if I'm way off base

**You:** . . .

**Stranger:** yeah that's what I thought

so mr teenager in canada

what can I call you?

other than stranger, of course

**You:** . . .

You first.

Actually . . .

Can we use nicknames? Is that okay? I just . . .

It's weird giving out my name to someone on the internet, y'know?

**Stranger:** sure

I'm . . . dorian

19

I live in ontario

your turn

**You:** I'm Tristan. 17, turning 18. Also Ontario. Please don't stalk me.

**Stranger:** I promise I won't

anyway you have as much information on me now as I have on you

**You:** So the name Dorian . . . where'd that come from?

**Stranger:** based on a book I used to like in middle school

thought it was cool at the time and it just kinda stuck

my email address is even dorian\_green@gouglemail.com

how'd you get the name tristan?

**You:** It's from Arthurian legend. He's one of the knights of the round table.

Okay, enough about my nerdiness. Let's talk about something less humiliating!

**Stranger:** lol okay

**You:** Oh, shoot . . . I just noticed the time. I've gotta run.

**Stranger:** oh

it was really awesome talking to you

honestly

if you wanna keep chatting later you can always give me your  
email address

or add me to instachat

but only if you want

**You:** Oh! Yeah! I forgot that! I'm tristan-ofthe-roundtable@  
gouglemail.com

It was awesome talking to you, too! I hope we can do it again  
sometime.

**Stranger:** yeah same

**You:** Bye!

**Stranger:** bye

*You have disconnected from the chat. To start another chat  
with a stranger, click here.*