

# THE LAST GIRLFRIEND ON EARTH

*And Other Love Stories*

**SIMON RICH**



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# Contents

## *Boy Meets Girl*

Unprotected	3
Magical Mr. Goat	13
Occupy Jen's Street	21
Dog Missed Connections	31
Sirens of Gowanus	34
Cupid	41
Set Up	46
Eureka	56
NASA Proposal	59
Archaeological Excavation Report:	
Ludlow Lounge	61
Victory	63
I Love Girl	72

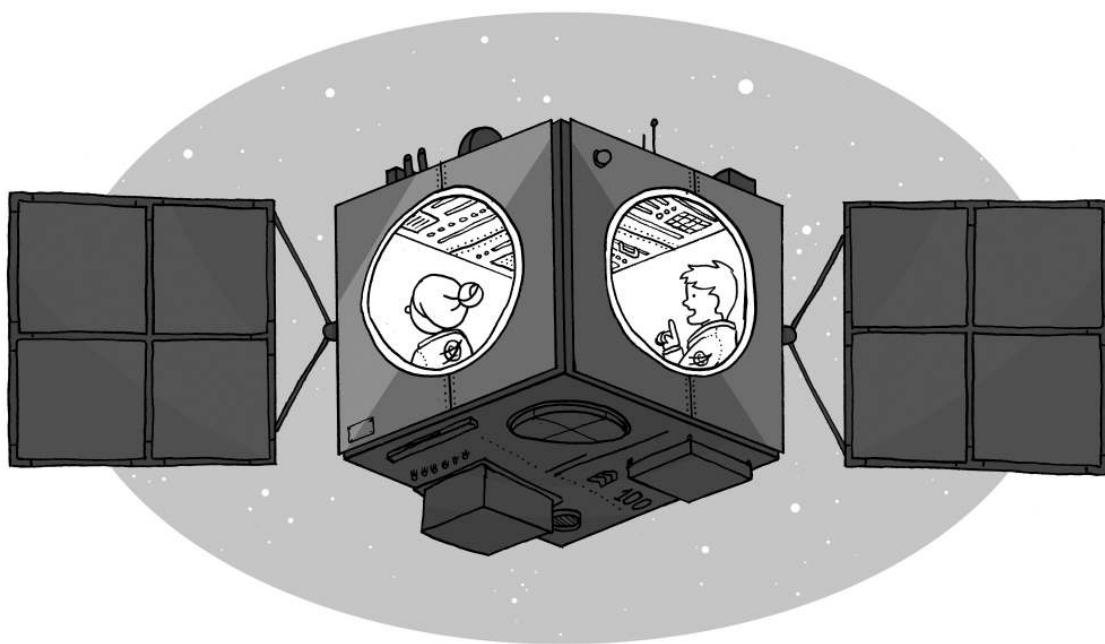
## *Boy Gets Girl*

Scared Straight	91
Center of the Universe	97

## *Contents*

Girlfriend Repair Shop	103
The Adventure of the Spotted Tie	113
Celebrity Sexceptions	120
Wishes	123
Confidence	128
The Important Thing	136
The Last Girlfriend on Earth	143
<i>Boy Loses Girl</i>	
Is It Just Me?	155
The Haunting of 26 Bleecker Street	161
When Alex Trebek's Ex-Wife Appeared on <i>Jeopardy!</i>	170
I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	172
Man Seeking Woman	178
Invisible Man	179
The Present	191
Children of the Dirt	199
Trade	201
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	211

# BOY MEETS GIRL



# Unprotected

## I.

I born in factory. They put me in wrapper. They seal me in box. Three of us in box.

In early days, they move us around. From factory to warehouse. From warehouse to truck. From truck to store.

One day in store, boy human sees us on shelf. He grabs us, hides us under shirt. He rushes outside.

He goes to house, runs into bedroom, locks door. He tears open box and takes me out. He puts me in wallet.

I stay in wallet long, long time.

This is story of my life inside wallet.

## II.

The first friend I meet in wallet is Student ID Jordi Hirschfeld. He is card. He has been around longest, he says. He introduces me to other cards. I meet Learner Permit Jordi Hirschfeld, Blockbuster Video Jordi Hirschfeld, Jamba Juice Value Card, GameStop PowerUp Card Jordi Hirschfeld, business card Albert Hirschfeld DDS, Scarsdale Comic Book Explosion Discount Card.

In middle of wallet, there live dollars. I am less close to them, because they are always coming and going. But they are mostly nice. I meet many Ones and Fives, some Tens, a few Twenties. One time, I meet Hundred. He stay for long time. Came from birthday card, he said. Birthday card from an old person.

I also meet photograph of girl human. Very beautiful. Eyes like Blockbuster Video. Blue, blue, blue.

When I first get to wallet, I am “new guy.” But time passes. I stay for so long, I soon become veteran. When I first meet Jamba Juice, he has just two stamps. Next thing I know, he has five stamps—then six, then seven. When he gets ten stamps he is gone. One day, Learner Permit disappears. In his place, there is new guy, Driver License. I become worried. Things are changing very fast.

Soon after, I am taken out of wallet. It is night. I am scared. I do not know what is happening. Then I see girl human. She is one from photograph. She looks same in real life, except now she wears no shirt. She is smiling, but when she sees me, she becomes angry. There is arguing. I go back inside wallet.

A few days later, picture of girl human is gone.

### **III.**

That summer, I meet two new friends. The first is Student ID New York University Jordi Hirschfeld. The second is MetroCard.



MetroCard is from New York City and he never lets you forget it. He has real “attitude.” He is yellow and black with Cirque du Soleil advertisement on back.

When MetroCard meets GameStop PowerUp Card Jordi Hirschfeld, he looks at me and says, No wonder Jordi Hirschfeld not yet use you. I become confused. Use me for what?

That night, MetroCard tells me many strange things about myself. At first I do not believe what he says. But he insists all is true. When I start to panic, he laughs. He says, What did you think you were for? I am too embarrassed to admit truth, which is that I thought I was balloon.

It is around this time that we move. For more than two years, we had lived inside Velcro Batman. It is nice, comfy. One day, though, without warning, we are inside stiff brown leather. I am very upset—especially when I see that so many friends are gone.

## *Unprotected*

No more GameStop PowerUp Card Jordi Hirschfeld. No more Blockbuster Video Jordi Hirschfeld. No more Scarsdale Comic Book Explosion Discount Card.

Only survivors are MetroCard, Driver License, Student ID, myself, and a creepy new lady named Visa.

I am angry. What was wrong with Velcro Batman? It had many pockets and was warm. I miss my friends and I am lonely.

A few days later, I meet Film Forum Membership Jordan Hirschfeld.

At this point, I am in “panic mode.” What is “Film Forum”? Who is “Jordan Hirschfeld”?