

EMOJI CONNECTION

by Matthew Salazar-Thompson

Copyright © MMXXV by Matthew Salazar-Thompson, All rights reserved.
ISBN: 978-1-61588-578-7

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Heuer Publishing LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Heuer Publishing LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Heuer Publishing LLC.

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

EMOJI CONNECTION**by Matthew Salazar-Thompson**

SYNOPSIS: During an online date, two young people replace their emotions with fun computer emojis until they realize that they are actually making a real life connection in real time.

TIME: Present.

SETTING: Outdoor Coffee Stand.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(2 females, 2 males, 1 either)*

BARISTA (m/f)..... The narrator of our story. *(5 lines)*
 BEN (m)..... A kind guy seeking a date with Jesi. Sends fun emojis in place of his emotions. *(35 lines)*
 BEN'S COMPUTER (m) The true and actual feelings of Ben. *(31 lines)*
 JESI (f)..... A heartwarming and sensitive young woman who sends fun emojis in place of her emotions. *(38 lines)*
 JESI'S COMPUTER (f) The true and actual feelings of Jesi. *(36 lines)*

AT START: *Simple set. Very upbeat music. Lights up on an exceptionally decorated mid-century looking coffee cart entitled "It's a Grind". We are outside on a beautiful Spring day. There are two sets of tables and chairs on either side of the cart. Center stage our very upbeat BARISTA is making coffee whistling.*

BARISTA: Oh hi there! Great day isn't it? Oftentimes, coffee is the best way to connect to the day, ourselves and even to others. Here at *It's a Grind* we serve up only the best blends... sweet, caring, intense, spicy, nutty, sharp and earthy. Oh, and some of the best darn coffee in these here parts! The intense aroma, the fragrance, the sweet, sweet smell of budding... relationships! *(Smiling.)* Speaking of, why was the espresso always checking his watch? *(Beat.)* Because he was pressed for time. *(Beat.)* Everyone's a comedian! *(Smiles.)* See those two over there? Ben and Jesi have been coming in the cafe for close to six months although not at the same time and neither one of them has any idea what has been *brewing* between them.

Lights crossfade to JESI sitting with a laptop on one coffee table while BEN is sitting at the other coffee table with a laptop. Both are "chatting" online. BEN'S COMPUTER enters and stands next to his computer. JESI'S COMPUTER enters and stands next to her computer.

BARISTA: The online dating experience can be exciting, different, and unexpected. What looks good on paper, or rather a computer screen, doesn't always translate into chemistry in person. Ultimately both parties simply want to know if they...

BARISTA, BEN'S COMPUTER, and JESI'S COMPUTER: CLICK!

The sound of a chat message on a computer is heard.

BEN: Hey, Ms. Intellectual. Uh... How was your weekend?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI responds.

JESI: Hey you. Pretty good. Thanks for asking.

JESI'S COMPUTER: (*Very fast.*) Happy face emoji. SEND!

JESI: Good to hear from you. Hung out with friends. Had brunch.

JESI'S COMPUTER: (*Very fast.*) Happy face emoji sticking out tongue! SEND!

BEN: Sounds relaxing.

BEN'S COMPUTER: (*Very fast.*) Happy face emoji with tongue sticking out, smiling, with glasses on. Thumbs up emoji. High five emoji. SEND!

JESI: It was.

JESI'S COMPUTER: (*Very fast.*) Happy face emoji with winking eye. Three thumbs up emojis. Monkey swinging from a tree emoji. SEND!

BEN: Cool.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND.

JESI'S COMPUTER: (*Very fast.*) Ocean emoji. Moon emoji. Stars emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Sun emoji. Chicken with a big thumbs up emoji. SEND!

JESI: Oops. Sorry about that last emoji. My hand slipped. People say that I'm sure of myself but a little clumsy. Too many emojis!

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND.

BEN'S COMPUTER: Hippopotamus standing on one foot with an umbrella in one hand while holding a platter of pancakes with one eye closed emoji. SEND!

BEN: That's alright, people tell me I'm kind of a klutz myself.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Really?

JESI'S COMPUTER: Winking smiley face with tongue sticking out emoji. SEND!

JESI: We've been chatting for nearly two weeks and it's so nice when you find someone that has the same values and sense of humor, don't you?

JESI'S COMPUTER: Two people looking at each other in love emoji.

Beat.

JESI'S COMPUTER: Erase, erase, erase. Two people *grinning* at each other emoji. Giant thumbs up emoji!

JESI isn't sure if she should send the text. Pause. Finally, she does.

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: You're right. I think I'm in love...

A long pause. He's not sure whether to send the message. Finally... he does.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: *(Typing rapidly.)* With the online version of you.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI reads this. BEN waits for a response. JESI is a little coy. BEN is waiting for a response. Choreographed they both simultaneously take the last sip of coffee from their cup, stand up and head to the BARISTA.

BEN and JESI: Refill please!

BARISTA: Sure thing!

The BARISTA smiles and goes to get their refills. A long pause as they look at each other. They both smile. No words. Finally... BEN is about to say something to her. BARISTA has "refilled" their coffees' simultaneously.

BARISTA: Here you go!

BEN and JESI: Thank you!

They both take their coffee cups and simultaneously cross back to their seats. As they leave, the BARISTA smiles.

JESI: *(Very methodical in her response.)* I might be...

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: In love with you too.

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN reads this. He jumps up and does a silent little dance of joy and then immediately sits back down. JESI doesn't notice him.

BEN: This is.... Amazing!

BEN'S COMPUTER: Fireworks emoji! SEND!

JESI: I agree.

JESI'S COMPUTER: *(Very fast.)* Winky face emoji. Face with hearts as eyes emoji, Heart emoji. Heart emoji. Heart emoji. Heart emoji. Two people smiling with a heart in between them. *(Beat.)* SEND!

BEN and JESI both smile. They look at their screens and then look across the table at each other still smiling, in love, not realizing that it's the two of them.

JESI: Now...

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: When can we meet in person?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

The look of joy evaporates from BEN'S face replaced with horror. He looks at BEN'S COMPUTER who gives him a look. He quickly brushes his hair with his hands, straightens his shirt collar, smells himself.

BEN: Will we know what to do?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Will I know how to act?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: Will you be nervous?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: A little.

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Who am I kidding... a lot!

JESI'S COMPUTER: A hundred exclamations points and SEND!

BEN: I can't wait.

BEN'S COMPUTER: A simple smiley face with hearts for the eyes emoji. SEND!

JESI: Me neither!

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: So, what do you think?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: I think... it's time.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN and JESI: Great!

BEN'S COMPUTER and JESI'S COMPUTER: DOUBLE SEND!

BEN and JESI: Where should we meet?

BEN'S COMPUTER and JESI'S COMPUTER: DOUBLE SEND?!

BEN: Do you want to go to a concert?

BEN'S COMPUTER: Emoji of music playing. SEND!

JESI: A little loud don't you think?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND?

BEN: Yeah, you're right. What about Italian food?

BEN'S COMPUTER: An Italian guy with a funny mustache making spaghetti emoji. SEND!

JESI: Could be a little messy for a first date.

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: True. *(Beat.)* Hey. What about...

BEN and JESI: A coffee shop?

BEN'S COMPUTER and JESI'S COMPUTER: Coffee cup emoji. Smiley face emoji. SEND!

JESI: That sounds... great!

JESI'S COMPUTER: Winky face emoji! SEND!

BEN: Perfect.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Where?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND?

BEN: I know this place.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: Good coffee.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: Great atmosphere.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Me too! What's it called?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN and JESI: It's a Grind!

BEN'S COMPUTER and JESI'S COMPUTER: DOUBLE SEND!

BEN: Been there?

BEN'S COMPUTER: Emoji of a bean. Smiley winky face. SEND.

JESI: Love that place.

JESI'S COMPUTER: Smiley facing blowing a kiss. SEND.

BEN: So... should we meet there?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: When?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: Say in ten minutes?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: Do you need more time? Or is that too soon?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

*JESI reads the message and looks at herself. She takes a deep breath.
BEN is anxiously waiting for her response.*

JESI: That's perfect. I'll see you in ten minutes.

JESI'S COMPUTER: Happy face emoji! SEND!

BEN: Great. How will I recognize you?

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Oh right. I'll be wearing glasses and a green sweater.

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: What about you?

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: I'll be wearing jeans and a collared shirt.

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

JESI: Great!

JESI'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN: Great!

BEN'S COMPUTER: SEND!

BEN and JESI: I can't wait to meet you!

BEN'S COMPUTER and JESI'S COMPUTER: The most EXCITED
SEND EVER!

JESI: Oh no! My power is almost out.

*JESI stands with her computer plug, looking for an outlet. She finds
one, next to BEN. She crosses to him.*

JESI: Hi... again.

BEN: Oh hi.

JESI: My computer just died. Do you mind if I plug in my—

BEN: Sure! No problem. Let me help you.

He smiles and takes her plug and plugs it in. They both smile and look at each other. Beat.

JESI: Thanks.

BEN: You're welcome.

She crosses back to her table and looks at her computer and types. Beat. They both stop typing for a moment and simultaneously look over at each other and smile. They are both about to say something simultaneously when... The sound of the espresso machine again. Blackout. Music. Lights slowly rise.

THE END