

AMAZON ORIGINAL STORIES

# CHRISTINA LAUREN

*USA Today and New York Times*  
bestselling author of *The Unhoneymooners*

## *The Exception to the*

**RULE**

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**CHRISTINA  
LAUREN**

*The  
Exception  
to the*  
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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, organizations, places, events, and incidents are either products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Otherwise, any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

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# Chapter One

## 2014

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Missing Assignment**

**Hi Ms. Solyom,**  
**I am a student in your first period Calc class. Based on midterm grades, it looks like I have a missing assignment under the Unit 4 Math packet. I believe I turned this in. Is there any way you can check? Alternatively, I can redo the packet.**  
**Thank you.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**Hi c.sun,**  
**I'm not Ms. Solyom. I'm a student. The teacher codes for our high school district emails are 88, so Ms. Solyom would be t.sol88@ipsd.edu.**  
**Also, you should probably sign your name at the bottom of an email to a teacher so that she knows who's emailing her.**  
**T.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**Hi T,**  
**Sorry about that. Typo. Thanks for answering.**  
**C.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**Hi C,**  
**Don't worry about it. Tbh, it was the only note I got from a**  
**guy on Valentine's Day, so I'll take it.**  
**T.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**That sucks. But also, how do you know I'm a guy?**  
**C.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**I just took a wild guess since you didn't use any exclamation**  
**points and any female in this city would use several.**  
**T.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**

**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**Smart. So from your lack of exclamation points you must also  
be a guy.**  
**What school do you go to?**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2014**  
**Subject: Re: Missing Assignment**

**I am the exception to the rule.**  
**And didn't your parents tell you not to share personal  
information with strangers on the internet?**  
**Happy Valentine's Day,**  
**T.**

# Chapter Two

## 2015

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2015**  
**Subject: Happy Valentine's Day**

Hey T,  
Wanted to make sure you got at least one Valentine's note this year.  
Happy Valentine's Day.  
C.

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2015**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day**

C!  
You are the mythical unicorn who remembers dates and conversations.  
Happy Valentine's Day to you, too.  
T.

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2015**

**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day**

**What can I say? I'm the exception to the rule.**



# Chapter Three

## 2016

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**C,**  
**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!**  
**I didn't want to forget. It feels like a tradition now!**  
**xo**  
**T.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**T,**  
**DAMN!**  
**I was going to send this when I got home tonight, and you**  
**beat me to it.**  
**And look at your egregious exclamation point usage, Miss**  
**Exception to the Rule.**  
**Happy Valentine's Day,**  
**C.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Egregious? I think you mean spirited! Today is a holiday!  
About love! Aren't we supposed to be enthusiastic?  
(And yes, in case it isn't obvious, this is the first Valentine's of  
my life where I've actually got a boyfriend, so let's hope he  
doesn't shank it on the date plans.)  
T.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Lol, have some faith. I'm sure Mr. Boyfriend will blow your  
mind.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**I'm a simple woman: forget flowers; give me a cupcake and  
it's a perfect date.  
Are you seeing anyone?**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Is this an actual personal conversation we're starting? Didn't  
your parents warn you against sharing information with  
strangers on the internet?**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**We aren't strangers! We've known each other for two years now. And how's this: we won't give names or other identifying information.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Sounds like a plan.**  
**I do have a girlfriend, and we're getting dinner at Din Tai Fung later with a group of friends.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**You're not supposed to give me specifics like restaurant names! What if I had plans at Din Tai Fung as well with my date and I walked in to see someone who looks exactly like he'd be named c.sun16?? The mystery would be ruined.**

**From: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**  
**To: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**  
**Date: February 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**I guess we could use acronyms only, but then I'd be telling you that my girlfriend and I are at DTF with a group of**

**people, and that seems like something that could land me on a sex offender list.**

**From: t.sol18@ipsd.edu**

**To: c.sun16@ipsd.edu**

**Date: February 14, 2016**

**Subject: Re: Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Omg fajdks;afsjksfa go eat your soup dumplings, you filthy animal, and I'll see you next year.**

**T.**

**PS: I also want to say because our district email addresses make this secret impossible to keep: Happy early graduation, C, and I hope you're feeling good about whatever comes next.**