

Edition 2

I'm a  
R♥mance Scam  
IT Detective



A True Story

Selina Co

Psychological Games • Real IT Analysis • Legal Matters • Gender Studies

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Romance Scam  
IT Detective

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**\* Criminal Frederick sent Selina 14 photos and 2 videos of “himself”, which had actually been stolen from another innocent person.**

**The below is to illustrate that scammers can send you reasonably convincing photos that match their stories to gain your trust.**

**\* Some photos are suppressed due to legal reasons.**

*Photo A: Frederick’s photo on his (fake) engineering company website.  
(Refer to P.16 & 43) Looked like he was really an engineer?*



*Photo B (suppressed): Frederick claimed he also built bridges. (Refer to P. 16)*

*< Frederick wearing a suit. The background was a construction site for building a bridge across the sea. >*

*Nothing suspicious.*

***\* If you find yourself approached by a scammer, please do NOT inform the scammer, but report it to the cybercrime squad in your country (such as the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) in Australia and the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) in the United States). \****

*Photo C (suppressed): Frederick claimed to be outside his office. (Refer to P. 24)*

*< Frederick in a long-sleeved, blue work shirt. He was relaxing on an outdoor sofa, holding a glass of red wine.>*

*Selina thought, 'Vineyard? The venue looks like a vineyard.' She examined the background of the photo but there was no obvious vineyard structure to prove it.*

*Later (Refer to P. 64), Selina pointed out that the background of this photo did not match his office address. Then Frederick changed his story, saying he was in a conference meeting in this photo.*

*Photo D (suppressed): Frederick said he gave a speech at a conference.*

*(Refer to P. 23)*

*There was a big, golden sign in the venue. Selina magnified it to check whether it has any mismatch to his story. However, the words remained unclear after magnifying due to low resolution.*



*Video 1 (suppressed): Frederick holding a glass of champagne. Cheers to you and me! (Refer to P. 23)*

*He has a name tag in the video. Selina magnified it to see if it matched his name "Frederick Chong". However, after magnifying, resolution was still not high enough to see the name tag. "Frxxxxx"? It seemed too short for "Frederick", but this was not certain.*



*Video 2: (Refer to P. 72) Frederick claimed to be driving from Brooklyn to New York CBD. Selina said, 'California ... Los Angeles?'*

*No one will normally post a video of driving and smiling in front of camera on Facebook or social media. He must have sent this out himself.*

*The way he smiled was like he was smiling at his lover. But was it me?*



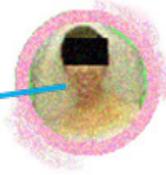
***In order to protect identities of concerned parties, we have changed background, clothes, hair colour, hair styles of the original people. We have already used good colours and effects to make them look good.***

Photo F: <Above, left> Embarrassed smile when taking photos with her best friends at her so-called “wedding”. (Refer to P. 35)

Everyone else in the photo was smiling happier than her.



VS

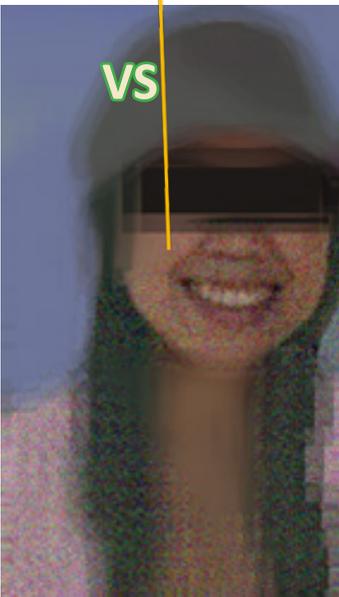


Contrast to her always very big, wooden smile whenever the alleged target came by.

The above was a rare photo that this extraordinary bride celebrated her “big day” with best friends. Half of displayed wedding day photos were her best friends celebrating ... without her!

If humans tend to express true feelings in front of best friends, then can you tell how she thinks about this “marriage”?

By the way, why did she rush into this “marriage” in a hurry?



VS

<Below> She always smiles the same big, wooden smile, no matter her posture or the situation (except when her best friends celebrated her “wedding”).

But it is not a happy nor excited smile either—try yourself with a mirror. You need an effort to post such very big, plastic smile. The unnatural big smile often fails to match her posture.

Women in love never behave like this. The actress needs to improve her acting.

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As of the time of writing

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Now I understand why Frederick asked me to send him more photos—he wanted to use my face to create a new fake online dating profile! Luckily, I rarely take photos and those in his hands should be insufficient for this purpose.

*\* Disclaimer: Franco is NOT actually from Los Angeles. We used “Los Angeles” in this book to protect his identity.*

### **Fake third-party email address**

Frederick is certainly a scammer. The general advice is to stop talking to a scammer. But he has stolen so much money from me. If I stop talking to him, the police and myself can miss vital clues on how to catch him (and how to get my money back). Why should I kiss my money goodbye!!!???

I will pretend I don't know he is a fake. If so ... what will I say to him?

I shouted at him, 'Hey, honey, your USD 113,000 still hasn't arrived!!!! Can you chase it up with your bank????'

'Honey, I'm in custody now. I can't use my phone freely. I had to beg the police to let me talk to you, my wife.'

'Then authorise me to chase my USD 113,000 on your behalf!'

After a few minutes, Frederick got back to me. 'Here is my banking agent's email: [USA-federal-reserve-bank@USA.com](mailto:USA-federal-reserve-bank@USA.com).'

Frederick, you are a full-time actor. Can't you show some professionalism?? This email address is obviously fake! USA.com is a company. A federal reserve bank is a government organization and should go with .gov or .org, not .com! Um ... but let me email it to see what will come up. Who knows? Perhaps it'll give me a little clue about this criminal group.

I emailed the illegitimate email address, but no reply. Apparently, it was already closed by [USA.com](http://USA.com), as it's obviously illegitimate.

## **Controlling Frederick's mind**

'Honey, your banking agent's email address doesn't work,' I said.

'Okay, I'll sort it out when I get out of here. Honey, have you sent the money to bail me out yet?'

'My love, borrowing money takes time. Don't stress me, ok?' I said to Frederick.

Now, I pretended I was borrowing money for bail to release Frederick from New Zealand custody, as he requested. Frederick wouldn't get suspicious, because romance scammers often get their victims into big loans to feed them. They always want to get as much money as possible. Then they can buy fancy cars, go to expensive top hotels and buy gifts for girls—leaving their victims bankrupt. Victims are forced to sell their homes and are fired by their employers. This is very common.

I acted angrily. 'Honey, you were calling me 10 times a day for the last few days, more than any time since we met. You borrowed USD 113,000 from me and the money hasn't been returned, and now you're stressing me out about paying your bail, as if I owe you money? I'm not happy!'

But this uncivilized Frederick had difficulty in controlling himself. He was rushing to get more money to buy his new fantasy—maybe diamonds for new girlfriends? He continued to harass me.

I blamed him. 'What the hell is that? I've already told you—I'm waiting for the loan to bail you out. Have you even heard what I said? Why am I talking to you? You just don't listen. And I tell you what, if you continue to blame me one single more time, I will be very happy to leave you in jail for the rest of your life.'

'I can tell you don't love me much!'