

# "Plenty of Fish" Mystery Quilt 2013

Tired of fishing and only catching duds?

Online dating can totally SUCK. You just never know what kind of flake you're going to end up meeting, even when they appear so good on that darn computer screen!

We have a brilliant alternative to the online dating game. Make a date to join our first ever Facebook-Only Mystery Quilt! It all begins March 1st, a special Friday night rendezvous with us online... and we PROMISE you won't be disappointed.

Yesssss..... you'll still wonder all the way along how things are really going to turn out, but the thrill of something unknown is so exciting, isn't it? We can't wait to make you fall hopelessly in love with this awesome new design... we named it none other than...

"Plenty of Fish" LOL You heard us!

The Quick & Dirty:

Quilt Size - 72"x85"

Skill Level - Easy Intermediate

Duration - 6 Months

Fabric Requirements:

Assorted Lights - Total 3 3/4m

Assorted Mediums - Total 1 3/4m

Assorted Darks - 2.2m

Outer Border - 1.2m

Binding .6m

\*\*\*FAT QUARTER USERS!! 15 lights, 7 mediums, 9 darks\*\*\*

\*\*\*Just a note about scraps.... If you're making this quilt from scraps, you will need to make sure you have pieces no smaller than 5" for all of the lights, mediums and darks. As well, for the lights, you will need to have 11 pcs, no smaller than 10"x10". Hope this helps, for those of you who are goin scrappy !

As we design all of our quilts, this one looks AMAZING done scrappy.

Participation is FREE, but please... like and share this event each month with your friends!

On the first of each month we will post your homework, with color photos and fantastic instructions. The first post will be Friday March 1st, 2013, no later than 12pm MST.

If you post photos of your completed homework on our Facebook page each month, you will be entered into a draw to win a free pattern!

JOIN this event right away if you will be participating, and don't forget to Like & Share!

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# Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt

## Step #1

Well here we are finally beginning our Plenty of Fish journey. We are so excited that you joined us, and look forward to seeing all of your gorgeous prints transformed into this amazing quilt. With all of these combinations, they will all be one-of-a-kind quilts!

Unlike a traditional pattern where you do all of your cutting at the beginning, we will be cutting as we go. Most of you are goin' scrappy (YAY) and we have no idea how many different prints you are using, and what size of pieces you have. SO, we are going to tell you how many patches to cut in total from your various prints. Cut a little bit from every print. This is the most FUN way to cut for a quilt. Most times I don't end up having enough so I have to go rooting through my scrap bin to find more to make up the total number of patches. This just makes my quilts that much more interesting, adding that ever-so-important element of variety!

One very important note before we begin. You had better be stitchin' with a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. A scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " is about a thread's width narrower than an exact  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". It doesn't seem like much, but this thread's width can really mean the difference between a block that finishes to the correct size, and one that doesn't. We will be testing your seam allowance in this first step, so that you have it mastered before you move on.

Ok here we go! Get out your light and medium prints, and press them well. We suggested in an earlier FB post to treat them with Best Press. *We put that sh\*t on everything ;).*

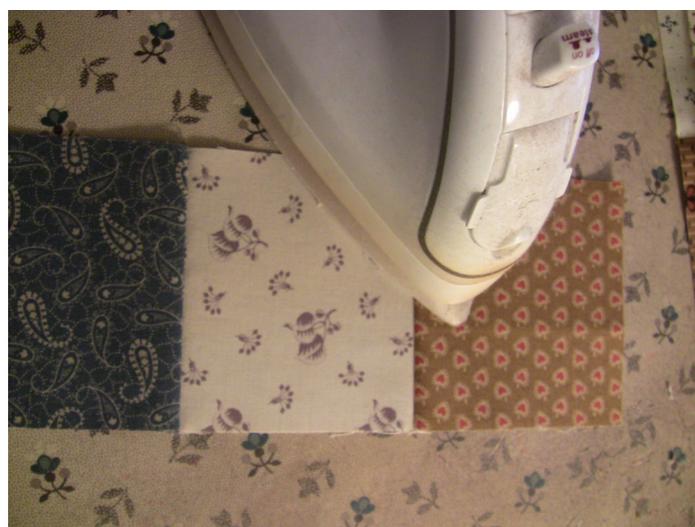


From your assorted medium prints, cut 80 – 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.  
From your assorted light prints, cut 40 – 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.

Stitch a light square to a medium square, right sides together. Now take a medium square and stitch it to the remaining side of the light square. Press the seam towards the medium square.

Begin by setting the seam.

Setting your seams is an important part of the pressing process. Because seams can pucker and even twist the fabric slightly, setting seams prior to pressing helps them lay flat and straight by locking the threads. To “set the seam”, gently press it in its closed position before opening and pressing. After setting the seam, open each unit and press again.



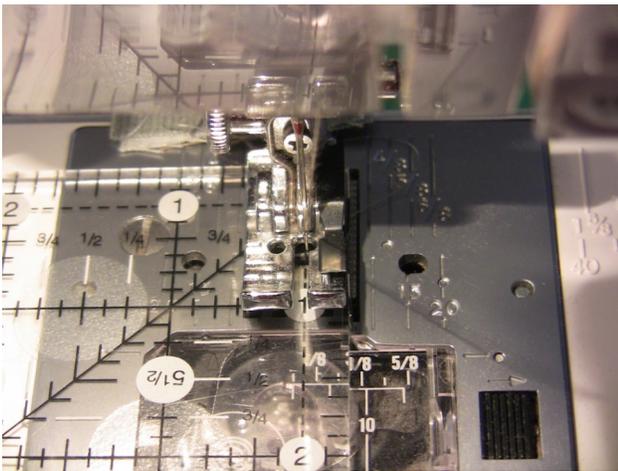
## Seam Allowance Test Time

The unit you have just stitched should measure  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ". If it measures *less* than  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " long, then your seam allowance is too big.... If it measures *more* than  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " long, then your seam allowance is too small. Most people err on the side of a larger seam allowance.

Adjust your needle position on your machine (if you can) to just a hair less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

If you cannot adjust your needle position, you can visit your local quilt shop and pick up one of many tools that will help set that perfect seam allowance on your machine.

Main thing, the needle needs to come down at a hair less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the right edge of the fabric. Once you have your seam allowance correct, make 40 of these units, chain piecing. Press the seam toward the medium square.



Now sit back, admire your work and read some smut!

Logged On For Love  
*Confessions from the online dating trenches*

Have you ever felt something inside of you say “Just move on”? it’s a curious sensation; the sort of pain that goes mercifully beyond our powers of feeling. When your heart is broke, your boats are burned, nothing matters anymore. It is the end of happiness, and the beginning of peace.

Merlin awoke one day with the overwhelming desire to make a change. A mother of two young adults, and a divorcee, Merlin felt it was time to do something just for her. She had flirted with the notion of beginning to date again, but somehow remained hung up on the worry that she would never truly fall in love again. Her sister, and best friend, Elaine, was about to arrive for their usual Monday morning coffee and quilting. Realizing she was still disheveled from another restless night, she jumped in the shower to clear her mind. Elaine always worried about her sister, and Merlin didn’t want to give her any reason to worry today.

Merlin could smell the scent of freshly brewed coffee, as she headed downstairs to find Elaine had already arrived, and was rummaging through her breadbox. Kisses and hugs were exchanged as Elaine sat Merlin down at the kitchen table to make an announcement.

“I’ve made a decision for you” announced Elaine, “Saturday night, you have plans.... His name is Edward”. Merlin sat listening in shock, while Elaine confessed to setting up a profile for her sister on the dating site Plenty of Fish. As her sister knew her better than anyone, she was able to describe Merlin to a T and even made her quirks sound adorable. Edward took the bait, and agreed to meet Merlin.

Although Merlin was somewhat apprehensive, she was excited deep down about the possibility of meeting someone new. She insisted that Elaine log into her POF account. This was Edward’s “About Me”....

*“Seeking You”*

*I'm 47, best described as an intelligent, imaginative, inwardly creative, somewhat of a loner. I love to learn, laugh and play. I love to banter. I don't mind a good debate either. I am well versed on many topics and never afraid to tell the king he's buck naked. I have helped raise a wonderful 20 year old daughter whom I am immensely proud of. She's in her 3rd year of University. I have been working hard all my life and the fruits of my labor are starting to pay off.*

*Although I have been shaped and molded by the sand carried on the winds of time and made wise by my experiences, I am at the core who I have always been.*

*There are fires burning deep inside. They cannot be quenched. I am burned by their passions and scorched with desire.*

*Irony at its best cuts to the bone, leaving you breathless with eyes opened wide.*

*How can you live outside the box when you are stuck inside one?*

*We all have a past. I am looking to build a future.*

*I was recently told I have a tendency to pick the wrong women. Maybe we can try this differently and you pick me.”*

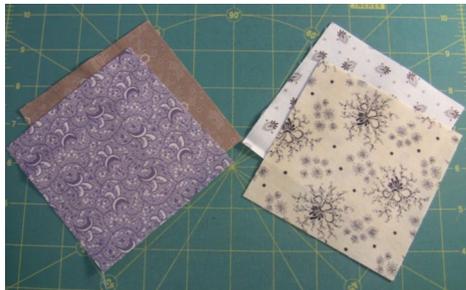
As she perused Edwards pictures and profile, she caught her own reflection on the screen, realizing she needed fresh color in her hair, something to wear, and likely some much overdue waxing! The apprehension turned to excitement, as they left from their chairs, ditched the sewing date and headed to the mall.

# Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt

## Post #2

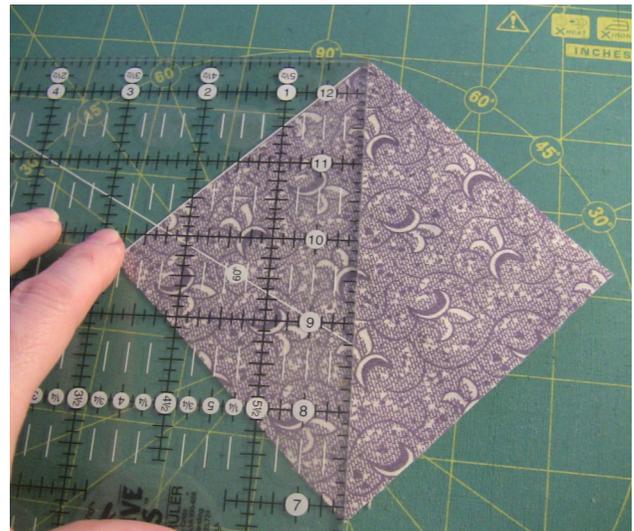


Congratulations on finishing Step 1! We hope you nailed the scant 1/4" seam allowance, because it becomes even more important in the steps to follow. If you're scared of triangles and points, have NO FEAR! Remember that accuracy is the key to perfect piecing, and that means each and every step; cutting, pressing and of course seam allowance.



You are going to continue to play with those lights and mediums, so get them back out and cut  $30 - 3 \frac{7}{8}$ " squares from both your light and medium prints. I have 4 prints shown in the photo here (2 lights and 2 mediums), that I will use to walk you through this step.

Take your ruler and align the 45° angle line (the white line that my pointer finger is touching in the photo) along one edge of the square. The right edge of the ruler should be a diagonal line from one corner of the square to the other.



Cut along the edge of the ruler, separating the square into 2 triangles. Do this for both sets of light and medium squares. This will yield 60 triangles of lights and 60 triangles of mediums.



Lay out the triangles as shown in this photo. The mediums should oppose each other, and the lights should oppose each other. You will be making hourglass blocks.

Stitch the triangles together in pairs of medium and light, set and press the seam to the medium triangles.

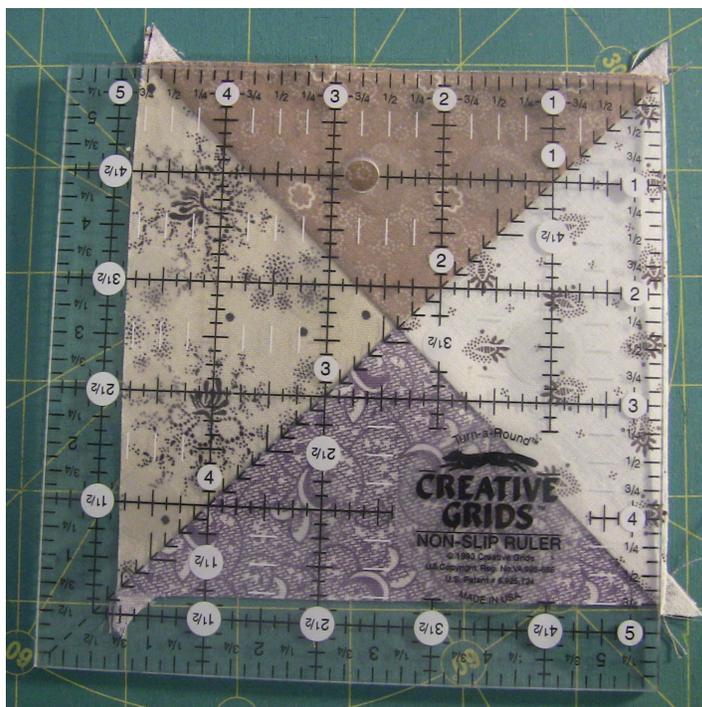
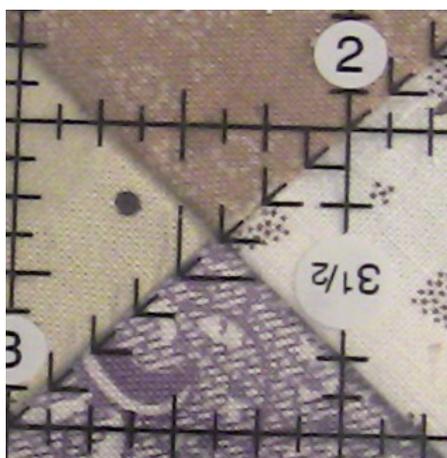


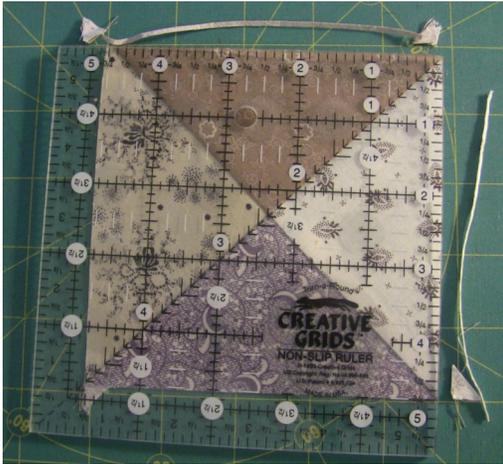
Now you will lay the two segments together so that the seams “nestle” and lock together between your fingers. Personally, I am a non-pinner, but please feel free to pin this intersection so that your seams will line up nicely after being stitched together. My preference is Silk Pins, as they have a finer shaft and don’t take up too much space.



Stitch the triangle segments together to make 30 hourglass blocks. Set and press the seam to either side.

Now it’s time to square the blocks. These need to measure  $4\frac{3}{4}$ ” square. If you have a 5 or  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ” ruler, this is ideal, otherwise you can use a 12” square ruler. Lay the ruler on top of the block so that the diagonal line runs through the block as you see in the photo. The  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ” marking should be at the center of the block as shown below.

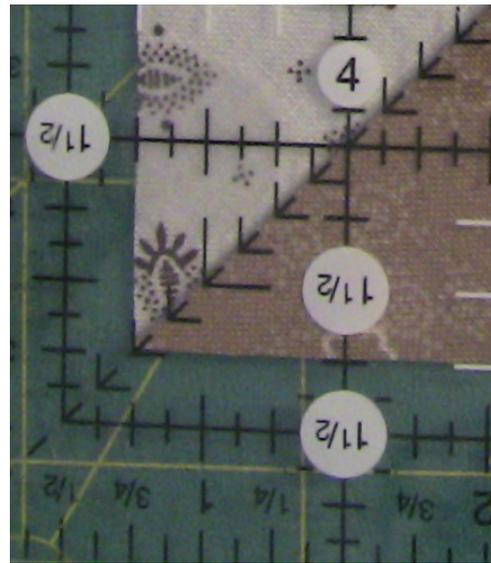
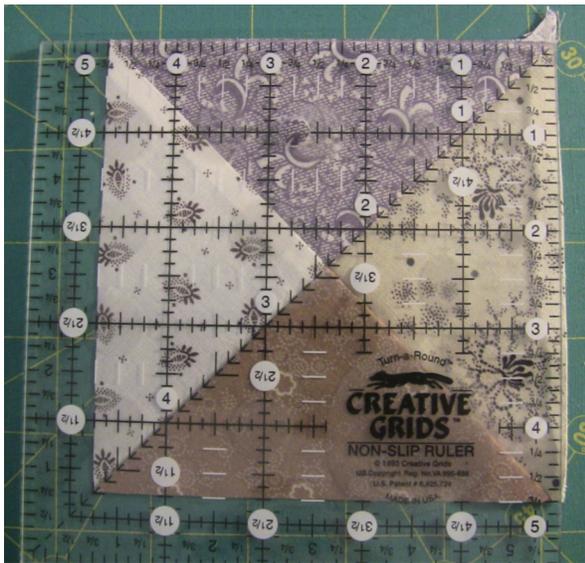




Trim along the right and top edge of the ruler **WITHOUT** moving the ruler. I have a rotating cutting mat that makes this easier, but with practice and a steady hand, you can cut across the top without shifting the ruler.

Now rotate the block so that the freshly cut edges are along the bottom and left sides as you face the block. Lay the ruler back down on the block and square up the bottom left hand corner with the  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " marking as shown in the photo below.

Square up all 30 blocks to  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " and step 2 is complete! Time to admire and share your progress with everyone!



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# Logged On For Love

## *Confessions from the online dating trenches*

### Chapter 2

Merlin watched him through a rose colored window as he sat and waited for her. She thought it adorable how he anxiously panned the little coffee house every few moments to see if there was anyone new in the room. A moment of courage would have her take a step towards the door to enter, but a split second would immobilize her with fear as her feet locked back to their frozen position on the concrete.

There was a bustle around her, although the noise seemed to drown to complete silence compared to the controversy in her head, and her heart. She had been alone long enough, yet the uncertainty and simple fear of dating after all these years, made her hesitant and suddenly insecure. Studying him, she noticed him fidgeting a little... a sign that he too was nervous and also excited. Recalling Edwards profile, there were phrases that stuck in her mind and replayed over and over....." *There are fires burning deep inside. They cannot be quenched. I am burned by their passions and scorched with desire.*"

Merlin contemplated what was holding her back from making a connection with someone who shared that kind of deep desire for closeness. Was it the kids, although grown and busy making lives for themselves now? Was it the inability to let go of past hurts from her failed marriage? What was keeping her grounded there in one spot?

Merlin told herself she wasn't ready and backed away from the window, sat on the walkway bench and put her head in her hands. Moments came flooding back to her of the day her husband Jack announced that he was leaving, and that their 23 years of marriage was over. 23 years. Same man, same house, same routine. Finished just like that. The hurt and overwhelming sadness was all too familiar, and Merlin suddenly felt physically weak and crushed.

Her heart leapt to her throat as the door of the coffee house opened as she watched Edward walk out to the street, looking in both directions. Merlin looked away. If he did see her, she didn't want him to meet her with tears in her eyes. A split second later she looked back. He had turned to walk in the opposite direction, away from her. Merlin became angry all of a sudden; angry at herself. Why shouldn't she take this chance? Why shouldn't she search for love again, even if it means only making a new friend! She deserved to be happy, to try again.

As she watched Edward walking away, she stood up and involuntarily shouted out his name, "Edward!". As Edward stopped to turn and look in the direction of her voice, she also heard her own name, "Merlin?" came a voice from behind her.

Both Edward and Elaine turned at the same time. Edward turned to see only people walking through the streets and a couple talking near a bench, and Merlin, with eyes wide open and jaw dropped, found herself facing Jack.

(Begin extremely sappy and dramatic music here)

Until next time.... Happy POF'ing!

# S.T.E.P 3

## OFF AND RUNNING

*“I don't need to know where I'm going....As long as PQM gives me the Next Step!”*



### Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt

Lots to do this time, 2 parts to this step, so let's get right down to it!

Get out your lights and your darks, yes your darks, YAY!

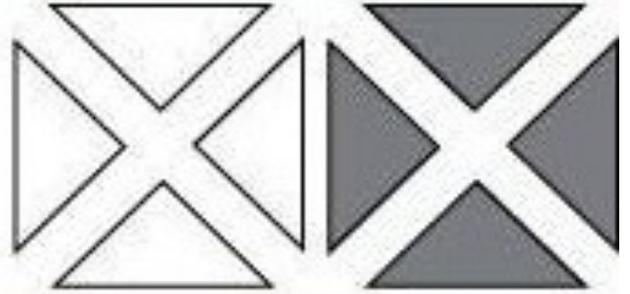


### Part A:

From assorted darks **and** lights cut 30 4 1/4" squares. Cut each square twice on the diagonal to yield 120 triangles of darks, and 120 triangles of lights.

*\*Bias Option... If you prefer to have the bias edge on the outside edge of the triangle, you may cut 60 3" squares and cut once diagonally.*

Make triangle pairs as shown in the photos below. You will make 60 of each triangle set. Press the seam toward the dark triangle.



A special TIP from Devon.... When stitching triangle pairs together, try feeding them through your machine with the point end first (as shown). Sometimes triangle points can wander while being stitched, and this way they stay true. To each her own, just something you might want to try!



## **Part B:**

From assorted darks cut 120 3 1/2" squares.

From assorted lights cut 60 4 1/4" squares. Cut each square twice on the diagonal to yield 240 triangles.

*\*Bias Option... If you prefer to have the bias edge on the inside edge of the triangle, you may cut 120 3" squares and cut once diagonally.*

Lay a light triangle down on top of a dark square so that points on each side are extending past the square the same amount on each side. If you'd like to find the center of the square, finger press the square in half, and align the inside point of the triangle with the crease you've made. Eyeball it after you've done a few!

Stitch the triangle onto the square. Do this for all 120 squares. Chain Piece, and press the seam toward the triangle.



Now to find the center of the square again. This time, since one side of the square is now stitched to the triangle, you are losing 1/4". BUT the center of the square remains the same. Fold and finger press again as shown in this picture, and try not to notice that Devon needs a nail appt.



When you lay the triangle down on the square, line up the inside point of the triangle with the new crease you've made. You will also notice that the edges of the triangle extend the same amount beyond the square/triangle unit below. Stitch the triangle on and press the seam toward the triangle. If you've sew the first triangle on correctly, and have laid this one on top accurately, you will begin stitching at the point where the two triangles meet. See the photo to the right, slightly blurred, but I had to blow it up :)



Stitch a second triangle onto each of the 120 units you've already made. Do one first so that you get it right, and then do the rest so you don't end up making a boo-boo and have to rip out 240 triangles. Ain't nobody got time for dat!

This is what this little baby should look like now! I love him/her. I want to give it a name and wrap it up! All 240 of them! These should measure 4 3/4" wide.



You'll need to trim those cute little ears off now, so go ahead and pop in Magic Mike on the telly, and trim away.



If your unit ends up looking like this.... You can trim it, if it's within 1/16", but more than that, and it will not measure up, as the triangle is set in too high. Try it again until they line up. Triangles can be funny until you learn how to work with them, not against them. And don't they make up some of the most stunning quilts? Master these triangles and you will take your piecing to a whole new level. Don't give up! The reward is GREAT!



This was a bigger step, a lot more work. Told you the intensity would be greater as we went along. Another learning curve for some. Don't be discouraged. Anything worth doing, is worth doing well. Be proud of yourself and this accomplishment. This quilt soooo kicks ass, and you are going to be so glad you stayed!

You're reward for now....

Chapter 3 of Logged on for Love...

# Logged On For Love

*Confessions from the online dating trenches*

## Chapter 3

Jack was the last person Merlin expected to see that night standing in front of the Blakes Coffeehouse. It was *their* spot. Ever since the night they met at a mutual friends wedding. Blakes was where they escaped to for a midnight drink, after spending the evening being polite to all the wedding guests, the night that they began the rest of their lives together. Until now. As Merlin gathered herself and regained her composure, she took a second look at Jack... or at least what she *thought* was Jack. He was somewhat of a local celebrity, an author who made his way into the newspapers, and in this case, onto a city bus advertisement. His reflection in the window beside her from the bus ad made her laugh out loud. Merlin seemed to always hear his voice calling her name when he wasn't there, and it was all too eerie that she heard it at this moment. She brushed it off... and as the lights turned green the bus, along with Jack, rolled away. She gave a sigh, caught her breath and whisked around to catch Edward before he was out of sight.

"I thought that was you... Merlin?" Edward was standing right in front of her. "I thought twice about approaching you.... I saw you had turned away, but something drew me towards you." He was just like his picture, no surprises. Kind eyes, and his face was full of character. "I'm Merlin" She said. "I'm so sorry I turned away, I thought I saw someone I knew." Edward didn't reply. He just stared at her. Merlin was caught in his gaze for what seemed like forever, and although she tried to speak, nothing came out. Finally he spoke. "Why don't we walk, instead of going in?" It was like he read her mind. She wanted to leave Blakes Coffeehouse behind her, along with the thought of Jack. "Yes, please. I would like that," said Merlin, nodding.

They walked. Down the boardwalk as the streetlamps lit the way. Conversation began to flow, and Edward told her about his family, his career and so on... and in the middle of the cobblestone bridge, above a foggy river, he stopped and simply said "You know Merlin, you never forget your first love." And then there was silence. Merlin searched his face for the meaning behind that statement. It hit her all of a sudden. Edward was in her high school, the one that kept to himself and never seemed to quite fit in. He began to speak again, describing a night at the local swimming hole, how he so desperately wanted to fit in with her group of friends, but didn't get up the courage to just walk over, make conversation and stay to hang out. He watched as her and her friends laughed, pushed each other into the water, and the boys (including Jack) all had their eye on Merlin. She stood there in disbelief how he remembered tiny details... the color of the ribbon in her hair, her sunburned shoulders, the song playing on the radio from the car.

"Well, now is your chance Edward." Said Merlin, as she took off her coat. She took his hand and guided him toward the railing. "C'mon, Let's go for that swim."

# I AM NUMBER FOUR

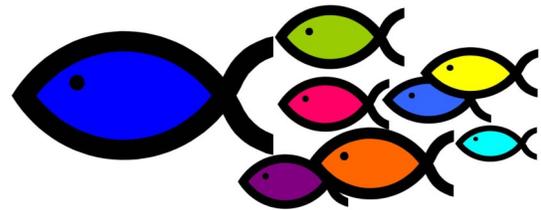
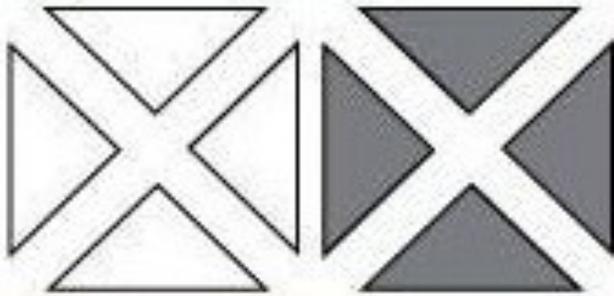
## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #4

It is not so important who starts the game but who finishes it.  
**John Wooden**

Now that you all have an uncanny fondness for triangles, I'm going to give you more. Once we get the triangles outta the way, we can start assembling units. The fun is just beginning! Don't worry, Step #4 is easy and familiar. You've done it already. Now you're just going to do it smaller!

From assorted darks cut 10 - 4 3/4" squares. Cut each square twice on the diagonal to yield 40 triangles. From assorted lights cut 10 - 4 3/4" squares. Cut each square twice on the diagonal to yield 40 triangles. YES. You are cutting the exact same amount from your lights and darks.

*\*Bias Option... If you prefer to have the bias on the outside edge of the block, you may cut 20 - 3 1/4" squares and cut once diagonally.*



Lay out the triangles as shown in the photo on the left. The darks should oppose each other, and the lights should oppose each other. You will be making hourglass blocks. Stitch the triangles together in pairs of dark and light, set and press the seam to the dark triangles as shown in the photo on the right.

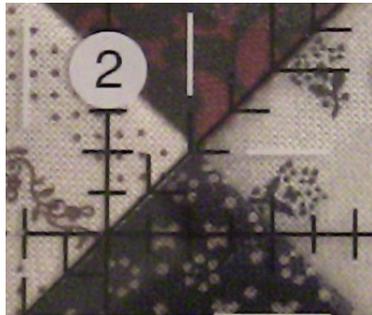


Now you will lay the two segments together so that the seams "nestle" and lock together between your fingers. Personally, I am a non-pinner, but please feel free to pin this intersection so that your seams will line up nicely after being stitched together. My preference is Silk Pins, as they have a finer shaft and don't take up too much space.



Stitch the triangle segments together to make 20 hourglass blocks. Set and press the seam to either side.

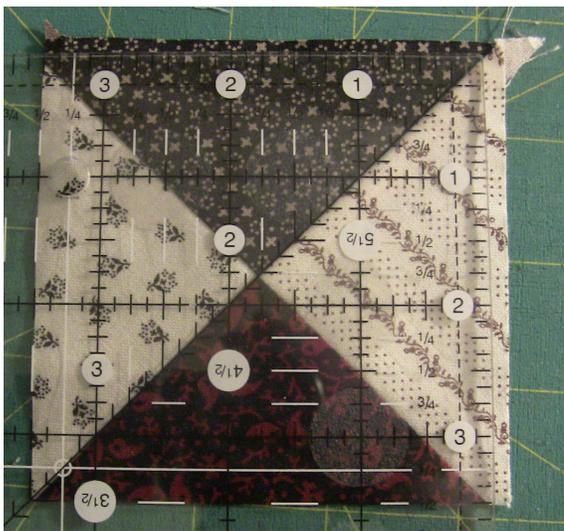
Now it's time to square the blocks. Good news is, I had you cut larger so that you had room to square down this time. These need to measure 3 1/2" square. If you have a 5 or 5 1/2" ruler, this is ideal, otherwise you can use a 12" square ruler. Lay the ruler on top of the block so that the diagonal line runs through the block as you see in the photo. The 1 3/4" marking should be at the center of the block as shown to the right.



Trim along the right and top edge of the ruler WITHOUT moving the ruler. I have a rotating cutting mat that makes this easier, but with practice and a steady hand, you can cut across the top without shifting the ruler.

Now rotate the block so that the freshly cut edges are along the bottom and left sides as you face the block. Lay the ruler back down on the block and square up the bottom left hand corner with the 3 1/2" marking as shown in the photo below.

Square up all 20 blocks to 3 1/2" and step 4 is complete! Time to admire and share your progress with everyone!



# WARNING

Here's what you DON'T do.... Notice the 2 problems with these units I sewed? First of all, they don't make hourglass units because I didn't sew all the sets together the same way. I ripped half of them apart and then sewed them back together properly to make the hourglass blocks.



Secondly, These are sewn with my lights and mediums, not my lights and darks. Dang. So I sewed them wrong, twice. Looks like I'm making a little night stand quilted topper. Whatevs!



## The Road Less Travelled ~ Bonus Mini Quilt



You'll need a fat quarter of a light, peach & purple. For the brown you can use a fat quarter (FQ), but the last border will have to be pieced. If you'd rather not piece the last border, use 1/4y x wof (width of fabric).

From the brown print cut 1 strip 2 1/2" x wof or 2 strips from a FQ. Cut into 16 2 1/2" squares. Set aside.

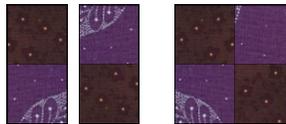


From the light and the peach print cut 2 strips 1 1/2" x wof or 4 strips from a FQ. Stitch these strips together along the length, and press the seam towards the peach. Cut these strips into 32 2 1/2" units.



From the brown and the purple print cut 2 strips 1 1/2" x wof or 4 strips from a FQ. Stitch these strips together along the length and press the seam towards the purple. Cut these strips into 32 1 1/2" units.

Rotate one of the units to align and make a 4 Patch. Stitch the units together to make 16 4 Patches and press the seam in either direction.



Assemble the rows referring to the photo for placement. Press the seams for each row in alternating directions. The widths for the borders are as follows:

Border 1, cut 1" strips. Border 2, cut 1 1/2" strips. & Border 3, cut 2 1/2" strips.

We like to use a starch alternative, but it really is invaluable after the rows are joined. It's really important the quilt lays flat for an accurate border measurement. Spritz the quilt with your favorite starch alternative on both sides, and let it rest into the fabric a minute or two. Press well on both sides.

Measure the quilt through the center and both sides. Average the three figures and cut the border strip to this length. Averaging the different lengths in the quilt, even 1/2" or so, will help keep the quilt square. It's much easier to notice if a small quilt isn't square, and we don't want that!

# Logged On For Love

## *Confessions from the online dating trenches*

### Chapter 4

Have you ever felt something for someone that you can't explain? This was always the way with Merlin and Jack. From the moment they met, as bridesmaid and groomsman for mutual friends, Merlin had a spot for Jack in her heart that could never be filled by anyone else. Maybe because it was so unexplainable. There was always a feeling of desperation to know more, to understand the feeling better, to be able to describe it. There was never a dull moment for Merlin, she always felt intrigued by Jack and for her, the marriage never got stale. Perhaps there was the element of mystery with Jack that kept her continually excited. That element of mystery was just what Jack was all about. He seemed to like that Merlin was "always on her toes" with him. Merlin missed the spontaneity she once enjoyed with Jack, and knew that she had to infuse that into her own life somehow.

A dip in the river is harmless really, she thought. The night was perfect for it. The stars illuminated the sky with a glow that reflected off the water, and up to a handsome rugged face that was suddenly very close to hers. Was she ready for a kiss? Not at all. But it was too late to react. Before she knew it Edward's lips touched hers. She stayed frozen in a moment that in reality, was only a moment. But it felt like minutes. A surge ran through her body, and Merlin felt as though she was awakening after a long slumber. The surge, a strong shiver, covered her body and made every hair stand on end. Merlin couldn't remember the last time she felt that kind of rush. The kiss ended and then impulsively, she leaned forward and kissed him again. This time longer, and deeper, and with more... shall we say.... ummm Enthusiasm!

When the kiss ended (after several moooooore minutes) Merlin turned and let Edward down a little path beside the bridge, that led down to the water's edge. As she kicked off her shoes, Edward suddenly pulled back, "Merlin... I... I... can't go in there." Merlin stopped, turned to see a very afraid look on Edwards face. "Haven't you ever watched 'River Monsters'?" Merlin burst out laughing. Edward didn't. "You must be joking", said Merlin, "Really? In here? I would have never thought of that, but maybe you're right, it could be dangerous!". "Yes," replied Edward with a concerned face, "so dangerous in fact that you might need me, to protect you!" With a cheesy raise of his eyebrows, Edward scooped up Merlin in his arms, shuffled his shoes off and ran them both straight into the water.

The lights suddenly got very bright behind them. They both froze in place. A voice boomed from behind one of those loud speakerphone thingys. "You two! Come out of the water at once!" Edward dropped Merlin as if he was just caught busted stealing something valuable. She let out a yelp just before she went under. Merlin jumped up trying to catch her breath, As Edward realized what he had just done. Helping her up and apologizing, they both burst into laughter. The local (and youngest) Peace Officer, Jimmy Parsons stood before them with a flash-light beaming in their faces. At Merlin realized who he was, she was mortified. Jimmy Parsons had just spent the night prior at their home having dinner. He was dating Merlins daughter Janine for the last 4 months. As Jimmy made the same realization, who was to pop out from behind him, but Janine herself. Out on a ride-along, the two thought it would be cute to bust a couple of romancing swimmers. "OMG! MOM!"

There were no words.

## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #5



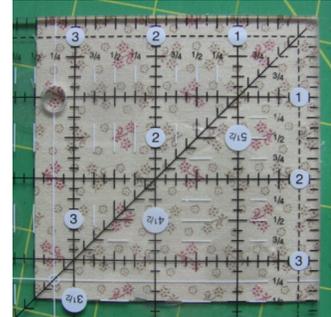
Does Step #5 find you all caught up and raring to go? I sure hope so! If not, here's another very simple step to give you some extra catch-up time. By this time I shouldn't have to remind you to ALWAYS sew with a scant 1/4" seam allowance, but just in case.... Ya... what I just said.

Ladies and Gents.... Get out what is left of your light fabrics. Leave the 10" light squares alone for now.

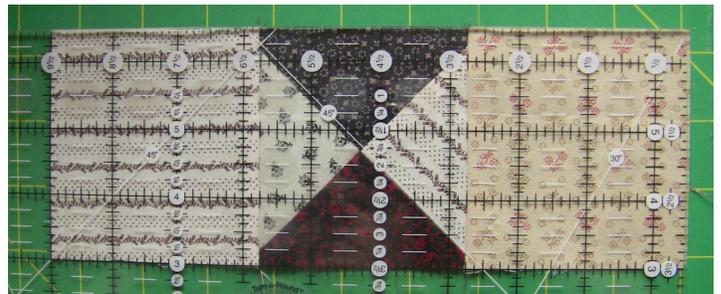
From your assorted lights, cut 40 3 1/2" squares.

Also, gather the 20 hourglass blocks you made in Step #4.

Lay them out in the following manner, and place the hourglass block in the same orientation as the photo below .



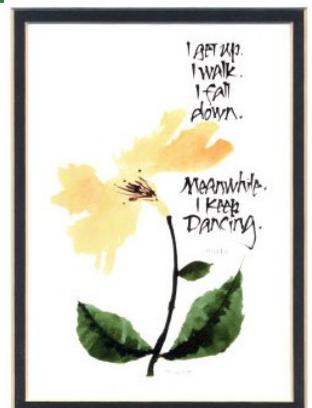
Stitch the light squares to either side of the hourglass block and press the seam towards the light square. This unit should measure 3 1/2" wide by 9 1/2" long.



This is what the unit should look like from the back side.

Stitch a light square to either side of ALL of the Step 4 hourglass blocks for a total of 20 units.

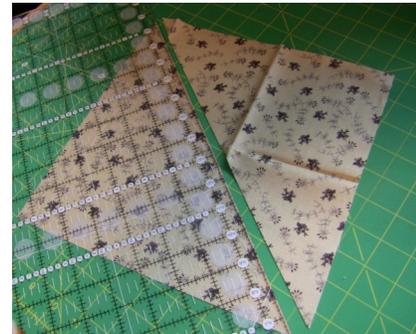
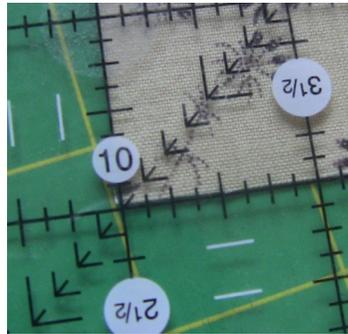
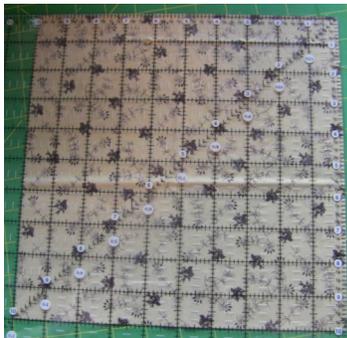
That's it , that's all ! For those of you that need to play catch-up, there's still time! Things get more intense again in Step #6, so enjoy this while it lasts !



## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #6 (twas a mini step, with a bonus!)



You have all been wondering what we are going to do with those eleven light 10" squares. No more wondering!  
You are simply going to make sure they measure 10" x 10" and then cut them in half once on the diagonal. Set them aside. DONE!



### *Baby Beloved*

15 1/5 x 20"

To make Baby Beloved, you won't need much! Here are the patch amounts and cutting instructions, you should be able to make this from scraps!

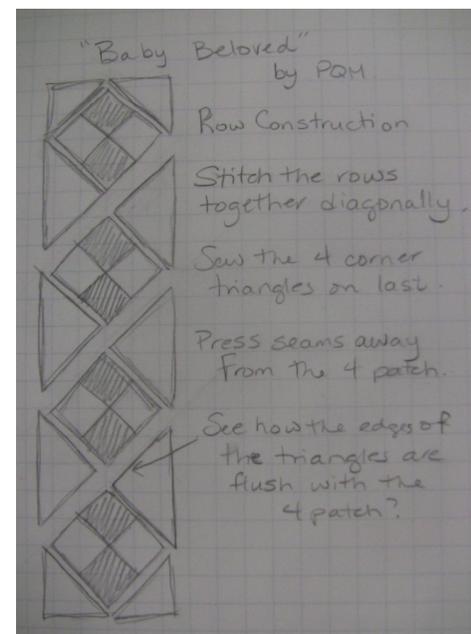


- Brown - Cut 16, 2" squares
- Pink - Cut 16, 2" squares
- Light - Cut 6, 3 3/4" squares, then cut once diagonally
- Light - Cut 4, 2 1/2" squares, then cut once diagonally
- Blue - Cut 1, 4" x 16 1/2" strip
- Border - Cut 2, 2 1/2" x 16 1/2" strips & 2, 2 1/2" x 16" strips

Using the brown & pink squares, make 16 Four Patch blocks. Arrange with the light triangles as shown, noting where the side setting triangles are flush with the edge of the Four Patches and the tip of the triangle extends beyond (trim after sewn). Pardon my hand drawn sketch & instructions! Trim the rows 1/4" away from the edges of the Four

Patches, being careful not to stretch them. They should measure 4 1/2" wide by 16 1/2" long. Stitch the pieced rows to the center blue strip, pressing the seam toward the blue. Attach the 16 1/2" side borders, and then the 16" top & bottom borders. Bind in blue.

Can't wait to see your very own Baby Beloved!



# Logged On For Love

## *Confessions from the online dating trenches*

### Chapter 5

“Mom! What are you doing here??” demanded Janine. Janine found her mother frozen on the sidewalk, gazing sappily through the foggy windows of Blakes Coffehouse. Janine knew the story of how her parents met, and remembered that they talked the night away at this very spot so many years ago. Janine missed having her parents together, but now that she was grown and out of the house, she really only missed it at family get-togethers. Last year she suggested online dating to her mother, it was dismissed as something that wasn’t socially acceptable to her generation... almost, embarrassing. Janine wanted her mother to move on, and find happiness with a man again, and watching her gazing like a schoolgirl through the windows, had her so very intrigued. What was up!?!

Janine touched her mother’s shoulder, to wake her from her silly slumber. And it worked. Merlin jumped and caught her breath. This time it was not her imagination. Janine was actually standing right in front of her. Merlin felt like she had got her hand caught in a candy jar, and immediately turned it around on her daughter. “What are YOU doing here Janine!” Janine noticed the shock on her mothers face, took her hand and led her to the bench beside them. They sat,

Merlin confessed to her daughter all about Elaines big plan to set her up with someone. She told her about Edward, and even how her imagination went wild and how her and Edward almost went for a dip. Janine was extremely surprised, considering her mother’s take on online dating from last year. She sat quietly though, letting her mother tell her all about it. As the story progressed, Merlins embarrassment turned to a giddy excitement that she couldn't hide any longer.

“Mom, I am so happy for you! And this guy is in there waiting for you right now? You need to get in there!” They laughed together, stood up... held hands, and hugged. “And! I want details later mom! You had better text me!” Merlin laughed again “I will give you SOME details, little girl. Ok. I am going to go in now, how do I look?”

“You look beautiful mom, you’re gonna knock his socks off!” And with that, Merlin turned and walked toward the door. As she opened it, she gave Janine a smile that she knew meant ‘thank you’. And in she went.

A tall and very eager man stood up to welcome her. “You must be Merlin. I’m Edward.” He leaned towards her and gave her the warmest hug.

“Very nice to meet you Edward. And just for the record. I don’t swim.”

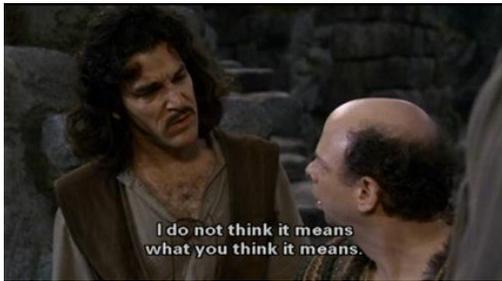
## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #7



Had a nice break while we were off at market?  
We are glad to get back in the swing of things now too!  
We will begin some assembly of units in this step.

First gather 60 Step 3b units, and 30 Step 2 hourglasses. Join the units as shown in this picture, using a scant 1/4" seam allowance as usual. Press the seam towards the hourglass.

You will have 30 of these units.



Notice something about these fabrics used in this step?

These are Devon's and she chose to use pretty much ALL directional fabrics in her mystery quilt.

It's really looking fabulous behind the scenes, will make you think twice about not being afraid to use directionals, for sure!

Now that we are starting to assemble units, you will begin to see how important the scant 1/4" seam allowance is.

It is the difference between nice sharp points, like the ones in this photo.

No points getting chopped off!

This is a block that will finish to the correct size because of your careful piecing.



"In the rhythm of the needles, there is music for the soul."

Methinks it is a token of healthy and gentle characteristics, when women of high thoughts and accomplishments love to sew; especially as they are never more at home with their own hearts than while so occupied. ~Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Marble Faun*, 1859

I RUN WITH SCISSORS  
IT MAKES ME FEEL DANGEROUS

# Logged On For Love

## *Confessions from the online dating trenches*

### Chapter 6/7

Merlins' anti-swimming comment caught Edward off guard, and he let out a little laugh. "Care to explain that?" Were the first words out of his mouth. Although it took him a mere 3 seconds to say those words, Merlin hung on each one as if it took an hour. Edward had the most amazing mouth she had ever seen. A neatly trimmed beard surrounded the softest looking lips, that almost had her leaning instantly forward to kiss them. Instead, she leaned in to accept the hug he offered with his open arms. There was a familiarity that instantly put her at ease. Their embrace was short. Merlin declined the explanation of the swimming comment, and they both sat.

"I took the liberty of ordering you a white tea. It's the most delicate of all teas, did you know?" he asked, "Appreciated for their subtlety, complexity and natural sweetness." He described the white tea, with that perfect mouth, and Merlin just nodded.... And blushed... The words he used to describe the tea, yes, the tea, were meant for her and she could tell just by the look in his eyes.

The familiarity that she felt, was not because they were childhood friends with a guilded crush. No, it was strange. It gave her the feeling that she knew something that in reality, she didn't know at all. As they exchanged short stories about their upbringing, and their lives currently, they realized they had much in common. Merlin recalled some of Edward's profile, "*Although I have been shaped and molded by the sand carried on the winds of time and made wise by my experiences, I am at the core who I have always been.*" She could tell by the confidence that carried each word, that he genuinely knew who he was. It was fiercely attractive.

As the night lingered on, and the chatter continued.... Ahhh ok... you don't really want to know about the small talk do you? Don't you think Edward and Merlin ought to KISS? After all, it IS chapter 7 and there's been no hanky panky! Here it is...

Her whole body ached; *she* ached as if there were a terrible hollow emptiness inside her. She was more conscious of Edward than she had ever been of anything or anyone else in her life, of the faint shine of blue beneath his half-closed lids, of the shadow of light stubble across his jaw where he hadn't shaved, of faint white scars that dotted the skin of his shoulders and throat—and more than anything else of his mouth, the crescent shape of it, the slight dent in the center of his bottom lip. When he leaned toward her and brushed his lips across hers, she reached for him as if she would otherwise drown.

For a moment their mouths pressed hotly together, Edward's free hand tangling in her hair. Merlin gasped when his arms went around her, her skirts snagging on the floor as he pulled her hard against him. She put her hands lightly around his neck; his skin was burning hot to the touch. Through the thin material of his shirt, she could feel the muscles of his shoulders, hard and smooth. ...

Flashes of Edwards profile danced across Merlins thoughts as they kissed, "*There are fires burning deep inside. They cannot be quenched. I am burned by their passions and scorched with desire..... Irony at its best cuts to the bone, leaving you breathless with eyes opened wide.*"

Merlin and Edwards eyes were open wide. And for the first time in Merlin's life, she could see everything.

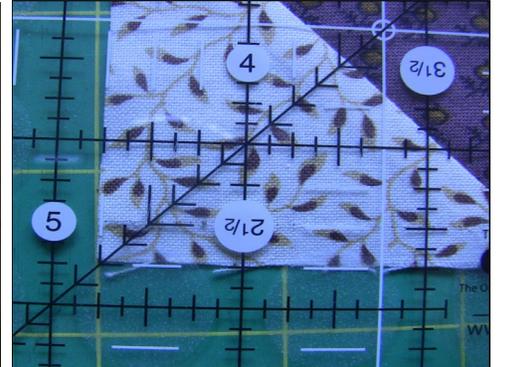
*Kissing scene inspired by "Clockwork Angel" by Cassandra Clare*

## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #8A

Gather 60 3B Units and trim the points (dog ears) off as shown here.



From your mediums, cut 60 - 3" squares and cut once on the diagonal.  
Lay them on the remaining sides of the trimmed 3B unit and stitch on as shown.  
Always use a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seam toward the triangle.  
The units should measure 4 3/4" square. Trim as necessary, removing the dog ears. Make 60.



## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #8B

From your darks, cut 60 - 3 1/2" squares.

Take the triangle units from 3A and attach them to the sides of the dark squares as shown.

The light fabric should be up against the dark square, on BOTH sides.

Stitch on the first 3A as shown and press the seam toward the dark square.

\*Remember that there are 60 3A with the light fabric on the right, and 60 3A with the light on the left.

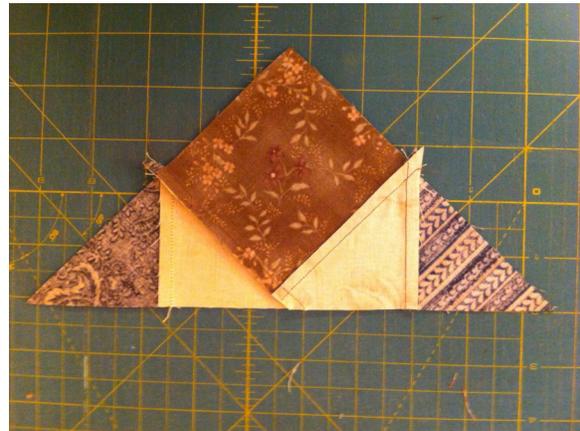
Notice that the first 3A unit to be stitched on, has the light fabric on the right side.



Stitch another 3A, with the light fabric on the left hand side to the next side of the dark square, referring to the photo on the left below for placement. Press the seam toward the 3A unit this time.

The photo on the right shows the back side of the unit, and the directions that the seams should be pressed.

Make 60 units.



Cinnamon Tea Buns... from the kitchen of POF'r Elaine Hale Woodford

4 cups flour 1/2 tsp salt

1/2 cup sugar 2 eggs

1 cup butter or margarine

4 tsp baking powder 3/4 cup milk

1 cup cinnamon chips 1 tsp vanilla extract

Combine flour, salt, baking powder and sugar. Cut in margarine with a pastry blender.

In a separate bowl, beat eggs, milk and vanilla extract. Add to dry ingredients. Add cinnamon chips. Stir with a fork to make a soft dough. Knead a few times. Roll to about 1 1/2 inch thick and cut out with cutter.

Bake @ 400 deg. for 12 - 15 minutes.



## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #9A

Go all the way back to your very 1st step, and gather the 40 units you made that look like this →



Now gather the 20 units you made in step 5 that look like this →



Lay a Step 1 unit on either side of a Step 5 unit, just like these pictures are laid out! Stitch em' together to make a block.

\*Correction — You will need to re-press the seams from Step 1 towards the light center square.

Make 20.

Press the seams in the block towards the outer Step 1 unit.  
Give the blocks another spritz with your store-bought Best Press,  
Or home-made starch.

## Step #9B

Now gather ALL of the Step 8A units. Take 10 and arrange them into a row, just like this picture below. Notice the orientation of the blocks. The mediums should 'face' each other, and the lights should 'face' each other as well. As well, the row begins and ends with lights on the outside. Stitch into a row. Make 3 rows just like this. Press the seam allowance in either direction, it doesn't matter which way it gets pressed.



You should have 30 units remaining. Take 10 and arrange them into a row, again just like this picture below.

Notice the orientation of the blocks. The mediums should 'face' each other, and the lights should 'face' each other as well. This time, the row begins and ends with mediums on the outside. Stitch into a row. Make 3 rows just like this. Press the seam allowance in either direction, it doesn't matter which way it gets pressed.



### Nine Letters Riddle

There is at least ONE word in the English language with 9 letters, that remains a valid word as each one of its letters are removed individually and successively removed.

What is the original word, and what are the words that it becomes after each letter is removed?

Be the first to post this on our mystery quilt page and you will win a prize!

## Logged On For Love

### *Confessions from the Online Dating Trenches*

#### *Chapter 8/9*

The date was over. Merlin prepared herself for bed, still trembling from Edward's electrifying touch. How could she have possibly been missing out on passion like this for so many empty years? All this time not knowing there was more beyond just a feeling of satisfaction. What was this difference, between satisfaction and fulfillment? Determined to find out, Merlin vowed she would not let this man go. She would not let this opportunity slide by her. Some of her friends, and family would likely sneer and scorn the idea of her meeting someone online. Merlin didn't care. Regardless of the source, she had met someone that she connected with in one meeting, more than she had connected with anyone in her entire life. There were moments of joy, happiness through Merlin's life. Her children, watching them grow and develop into fine young adults whom she was so very proud of.... And of course there were happy moments throughout the years with Jack. He was the father of their children, and she loved him. At one time in her life.

Now her eyes were wide open, to a new possibility. One that she never thought would exist. Yet another glance at Edwards face was what Merlin craved, before she closed them for the night .

So she logged on.

She clicked on her "Inbox".

Without hesitation, clicked on Edward's profile picture, to bring up his photos.

"*Seeking You* is Currently On-Line" Merlin read. Shock. Instant waves of shock poured through Merlin's body. What was he doing online? They had such an amazing evening... he said he wanted to see her again! Who was he talking to? A flood of jealousy and fear overwhelmed Merlin and she remembered the panic she felt when she discovered that Jack had been unfaithful. Edward was different! He doesn't seem the type to play the field! Merlin instantly logged off, for fear that he would see her online too... even if only for the reason to look upon his face one more time.

Explaining this to Elaine the next morning over coffee was heartbreaking. Although Elaine encouraged her not to worry too much at this point, Merlin was concerned that Edward might be a "serial dater", always on the look-out for someone better, lurking online just in case someone more interesting came along... keeping his options open. Merlin felt so breakable and frail. The thought of not being able to trust Edward, or anyone again, was painful. So much that she decided to remove herself from the dating site altogether. She couldn't handle the hurt and suspicion.

As she logged on, for the last time, a message popped up.

"*Seeking You*" has sent you a message. Click [\*here\*](#) to read.

Merlin decided hastily not to open the message. She didn't want to feel rejection. Her cursor hovered over the "Delete Account" button.

Merlin and Elaine exchanged a glance for a few moments, as she clicked on.....

## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #10



Time for things to start coming together, don't you think?  
So with only 3 steps left,  
here's your next block construction.

This lovely star block is made up of the 30 units  
you made in Step 7 (middle)  
and the 60 units you assembled in Step 8B.

Lay an 8B unit on either side of a 7 as shown  
in the pictures on the right.

Pin the intersections as shown here. We use silk pins.  
They have a finer shaft than regular or flower head pins  
which means they won't shift your seam out of place while  
stitching, won't bend your needle if you stitch over them,  
and won't leave a gaping print behind in your fabric!

Stitch an 8B to either side of the 7's,  
pressing the seam toward the middle, 7.



Notice above that some of the same fabric is touching?  
That's totally ok in a scrappy quilt! Just go with it!



Here's your finished block! Make 30 of these cuties!  
They should finish very close to 9 1/2" square.  
You will need to trim the excess and points.  
We have a 9 1/2" square ruler overtop of our block,  
perfect for trimming!



## Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #11



Alrighty everyone, here is the validation you have been looking for!

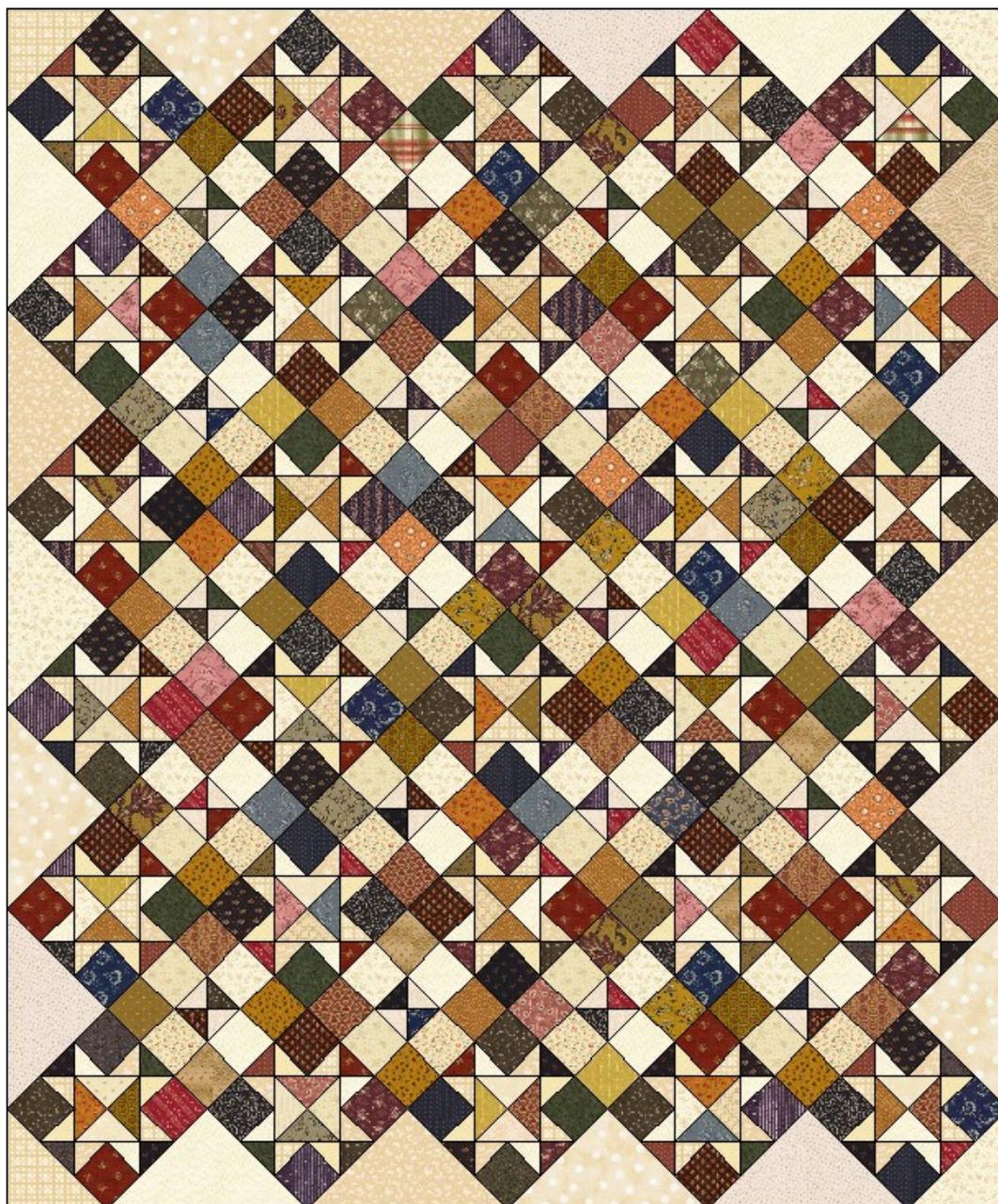
The majority of your layout guesses were correct!

However, take note of the orientation of all of the blocks. Notice that every second star block has the hourglass up and down, the next being tilted so the hourglass is horizontal?

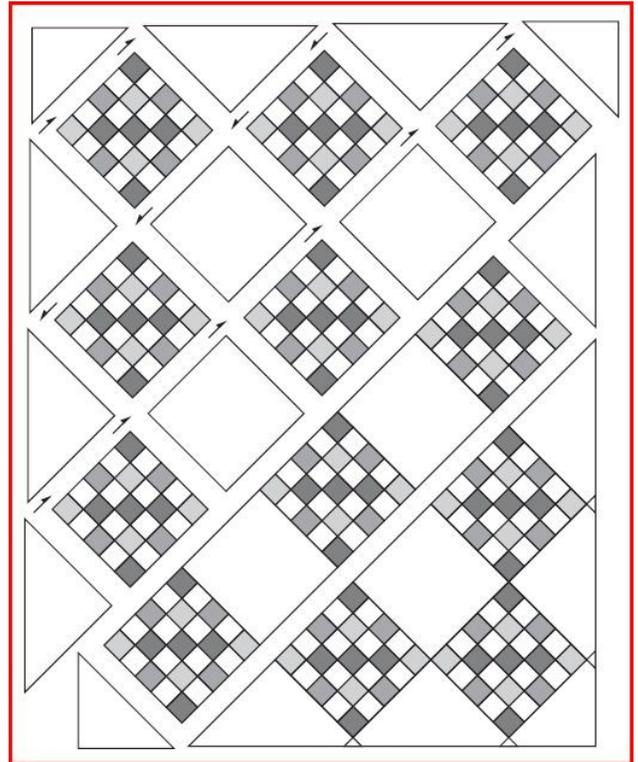
Same thing with the alternate block (with the small hourglass in the middle), every second block is tilted in opposite the direction.

Lay out all of your blocks in the way, and place the setting triangles around the edges.

Refer to this photo for placement.



This quilt layout is what we refer to as “On Point”, when the blocks are turned from their horizontal position to create a new setting. Note that this diagram is for a different quilt, with a fewer amount of blocks. This is just for reference only. Arrange the blocks and setting triangles following the quilt diagram on the previous page. Stitch the rows together. The arrows in this diagram indicate the pressing direction for each row. Alternate directions so that your rows fit together nicely.



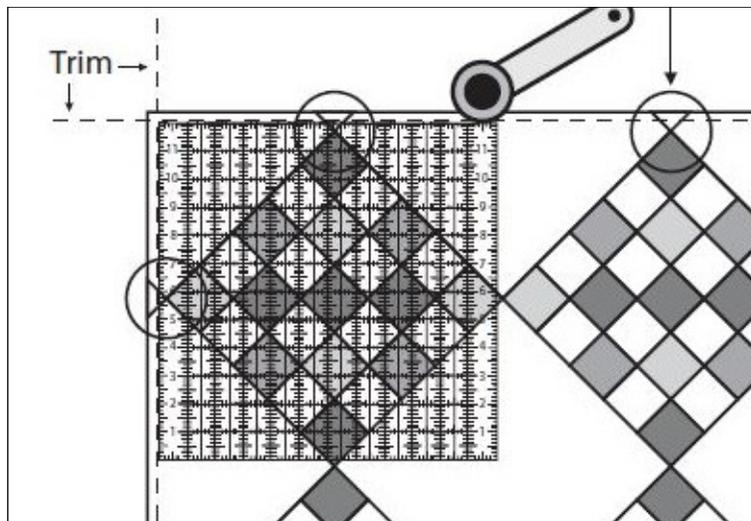
While you are joining these rows, you will notice that the occasional seam does not oppose. This is something that cannot always be avoided, and can easily be remedied by using “The Clipping Trick”, made well known by artist Jo Morton.

Done frequently in garment making, the Clipping Trick can easily and safely be used in quilting. It’s simply making a partial snip into a seam allowance in order for that seam to lay flat once stitched together. Here are some pictures of what a clipped seam will look like, in our quilt.



Skeptical of the procedure? Check out Miss Rosie’s Quilt Co’s blog “La Vie en Rosie” and pull up her post from August 6, 2009. Have a read, then come back and join us :)

Once the quilt top is together, handle the edges very carefully as they are bias and can stretch and distort. It’s time to square the quilt top. You will need to trim 1/4” away from the points of the blocks on all 4 sides of the quilt. Begin by placing a 12” square ruler on a corner, making sure it is 1/4” away from both intersection points on the blocks on both sides. Trim evenly on all 4 corners. Then, with a 24” long ruler, trim each side evenly, maintaining 1/4” distance from the block points. If you will not be attaching your border right away, we recommend that your stay stitch a very scant 1/4” all the way around the outside edge of the quilt, to prevent distortion and stretching. The quilt should measure 64” x 76 1/2”.



Logged On For Love  
*Confessions from the Online Dating Trenches*  
Chapter 11

Dearest Merlin:

Remeniscing about our night tonight, I felt compelled to send you a letter to tell you just how I feel. Sitting across that table from you, listening to your fascinating stories, I was mesmerized. I find it so attractive that you are so passionate when you talk about the things and the people you love.

When we were together, I was not afraid to be me, the person I was always meant to be. Tonight was an amazing gift, a gift from your heart. I am at home, but my thoughts are with you, wherever you are right now. I wish so badly that I could touch your face, your hair, that beautiful smile. Just to run my fingers down the side of your face would be heaven to me. Just to look into your eyes and see what I have been longing to see. Just to let you look back into my eyes and see my soul as I know only you could do. It is there, in my eyes. My truth. The truth of my feelings for you. More than mere words can express, even at this point.

I am suddenly not afraid anymore. I am not afraid of this instant bond between us. You are a complete mystery to me, and yet I feel as though I know you, and better than I know myself.

I feel that with you, that it will not always be necessary for us to communicate with words because of what we share. No matter how many people were around us tonight, making it difficult at times for us to really talk, we communicated with our looks, our touch and with our hearts. If you did not feel that tonight, I have no doubts that very soon, there will come a day that you will. And once you experience that with me, what it feels like, I know we will never forget.

My first look at you I knew, and I finally know, what it is to love and be loved. Without conditions, without reservations. And I want to shout out to the whole world what I have found!

Merlin, if this is right, it will not go away. It will keep growing and getting stronger. Have I said too much? I feel like I could just keep writing... the clock ticks on, closer to tomorrow, and I cannot wait until the next day that I can see you again. I feel that already, you are my forever friend. Someone I will always be able to trust. I can talk to you so easily, and it excites me to know that there is so much to be explored and discovered about one another. After years of being alone, I don't want to rush into anything, and I know you don't want that either. But having said that I don't believe that it will take us very long for it to become clear to both of us what we need to do.

I want us to get to know the me, the you, that goes out every day and faces the world. To laugh together, have fun together, whether we are just talking (and/or more). Merlin, I never knew it was possible to feel this way. I want to wake up every morning with a smile, because you have brought me a serenity that I never dreamt was possible. Knowing that I can feel this way after just one meeting, I know that what I feel HAS to be real, and how much I look forward to seeing you again, and beginning a journey together.

Have I gone on too long? Merlin, I have just said everything I wanted to tell you before we parted ways tonight, but was scared you would think it too soon. I had to get it out, had to express how I am feeling, and writing all of this to you seemed like the best way to communicate it. Read this over. Don't be scared. Go with your feelings and let yourself feel exactly what you feel and don't try to diminish or hide it.

Say you'll do this with me? See me tonight?

Love,  
Edward

# Plenty of Fish Mystery Quilt Step #12



## The Grande Finale!

This fun journey has reached it's destination!  
Now you can put together your masterpiece, choosing your very own ending!  
Once you have finished your top, quilt, bind, wash, love and enjoy!

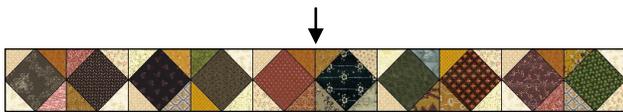
An overwhelming THANKS to all who have participated in Plenty of Fish! We hope you had as much fun as we did, and made some fantastic new friends! Hope to see you all in our next Facebook Mystery Quilt, [Cracked Pots!](#)

Sharon & Devon



## Pieced Border Option

Gather the rows you assembled in Step 9B. From a 9B row that begins and ends in lights, separate into two smaller rows of 5 blocks each. Reverse stitch here:



You will now have 2 short rows that look like this:



Now attach one of those shorter rows to a long 9B row that begins and ends with lights.

This completed row will begin with a light, and end with a medium.

The row consists of 15 blocks, and should measure  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and 64" long once stitched together.

Repeat the steps above to make one more row just like this. These will be the top and bottom rows.



Join Here



Following the instructions in Steps 3B and 8A, make 6 more  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " blocks.

From a 9B row that begins and ends with mediums (they're the only 3 rows left). Separate into two smaller rows of 5 blocks each. Reverse Stitch here:



Add 3 individual  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " blocks to each of these rows of 5, and then attach to another 9B row.

Join Here



The row consists of 18 blocks and should measure  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and 76" long once stitched together. It will begin and end in mediums. Make one more row, but this row will need to begin and end in lights. So simply take one block off the end of the row and add to the other end.

From your dark prints, cut four  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " squares. Stitch them to either end of these rows and press the seam away from the plain square. These will be the side rows.

Stitch the top and bottom rows to the quilt and press the seam towards the border. Then stitch the side rows onto the quilt and press towards the border. Stay stitch around the edges to keep seams intact. And Voila!

## Double Border Option

Add another border to the pieced border, to make this quilt just a smidge larger.

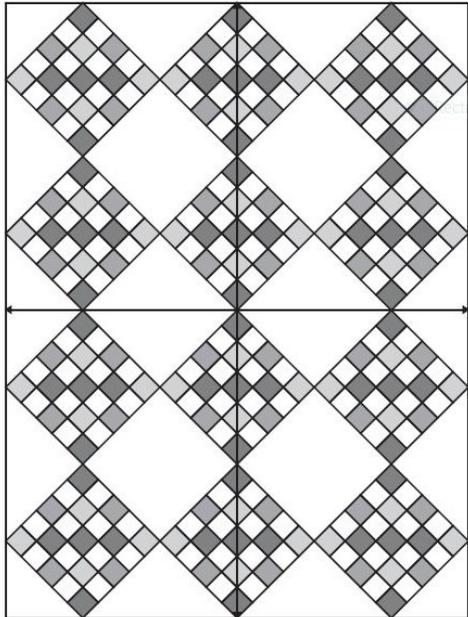
Cut 8 strips 4 1/2" by Width of Fabric from your border print. If you are joining these strips end to end, 8 strips will be enough. If you are joining on this bias, cut 9



## Measuring for Borders

Measure the quilt's length through the center and trim 2 lengths to that measurement. Pin, stitch to the sides, and press towards the border.

Measure the quilt's width (including side borders) through the center and trim 2 lengths to that measurement. Pin, stitch to the top and bottom, and press towards the border.



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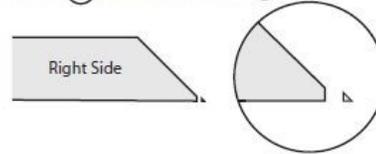


## Bias-Joined Strips

To bias-join strips together, unfold strips and lay them **right sides up** on your cutting board (you can cut several at once). Locate the 45° angle on your ruler, and position this on the **bottom edge** of the strips. Cut against the edge of the ruler, resulting in a 45° angle.

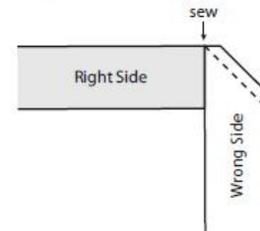


Trim 1/4" off the corners (at PQM we like to use and recommend **Judy Martin's Point Trimmer** [www](http://www.judy-martin.com) for accurate trimming).



To join two strips together, lay the first strip on your cutting board **right side up**. Lay the second strip **right side down** and at a 90° angle on the first strip. The corners that you trimmed should line up perfectly!

Stitch using a 1/4" seam, being careful not to stretch the bias. If you spritz first with your favourite starch alternative, the bias edge will be less likely to stretch.



Press seam open.



## Single Border Option

Cut 8 strips 4 1/2" by Width of Fabric from your border print.



Logged On For Love  
*Confessions from the Online Dating Trenches*  
Chapter 12

With the lingering combination of white tea and Edward on her lips, Merlin sat and breathed deeply. She read and re-read Edwards letter, the last time, with tears in her eyes.

Yes, she thought. And why not. This next chapter of her life was going to be all about her. She began to type her reply...

My Dear Edward,

I sit here, lost in the memory of you. What is today? I don't know. What is it I'm supposed to be doing now? I can't remember. It couldn't have been very important. Thoughts of tonight fill my mind and heart. Nothing else seems worth my time and effort. Where am I? Well, not here in this confined space, not really. I'm still lost in everything I felt when we were together. That was when you and I became "us" and I could no longer tell where you left off and I began.

I simply cannot help but surrender to the feelings that have captured my soul and yet promise me freedom and joy. Now, the words of an old John Denver song come to mind, and it is only now that I understand what the "sweet surrender" he sang about really means.

It's very strange because, even now that we're apart, I feel that I'm still with you. I remember what it's like to hold you, to kiss you; those delicious sensations are still with me. We respond to each other so naturally and completely I believe the gods must have created us to complete each other's existence. Ours is a union that reaches beyond the mere physical into mystical planes that take my breath away. You are part of my very being now and I could never be complete or whole without you.

I will see you tomorrow night, and yes, I will do this with you.

With love, anticipation and excitement,  
Merlin

Once the message had been sent, Merlin finally clicked on that "Delete Account" button. She wasn't going to be needing it any longer.

*The End*