

## ROMANCE

# When Reno met April ...can sparks reignite?

## Bahamas man falls for Schenectady lady in Florida decades ago

By Pete DeMola



NAIRN

### *Schenectady*

If you're a Schenectady native named April and you studied at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida during the mid-1990s, Ricardo is looking for you. You may have known him as "Reno." While nearly three decades have passed since their whirlwind student romance, Ricardo Nairn still remembers that girl from the Electric City. Nairn now runs a taxi-and-tour business in the Bahamas. A chance encounter with a Schenectady tourist in Nassau on Wednesday rekindled his search for his long-lost love. Memories came flooding back when Schenectady native Abby Jones chatted up Nairn in his cab. Right before being dropped off, Jones told Nairn she was from

Schenectady, her beloved hometown.

"*Schenectady?!,"* he said. As a student at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach in 1996, Nairn recounted falling for a Schenectady girl named April.

It was a whirlwind romance lasting about a month.

Nairn and his roommate would go on double dates with April and her roommate, Sheryl. Nairn introduced April to West Palm Beach's club circuit, where they would dance to reggae and calypso. When temperatures cooled, they'd go for walks on the beach.

He still remembers their conversations.

"We were from two different worlds and she blended in my world so easily," Nairn told the Times Union. "I taught her how to dance and she moved like an island girl."

Jones, who recounted the exchange in a Facebook post Wednesday, didn't immediately respond for an interview.

Nairn, 50, recalls his beloved as having short blond hair. Her last name remains a mystery, he said. He was too enamored to find out.

The fling ended when April went home for spring break and never came back. Nairn lost his cellphone, so she may have called, he said. But back in 1996, it wasn't as easy to replace lost phones. He kept an eye on his Hotmail account, which yielded nothing.

"I've always thought about her," Nairn said.

After working for nearly a decade for Bell South, Nairn returned to the Bahamas in the mid-2000s.

Now he makes his living shuttling around tourists.

And while he remains single, he just wants to reconnect. No pressure.

“She really made an impression on me over the years,” Nairn said. “I think about her all the time. I just want to see how she’s doing and catch up.”

Jones asked Facebook users to spread her attempt at rekindling the magic far and wide.

“He doesn't even care if your life's not at a place to be romantic,” Jones wrote. “This dude just cares about you and just wonders how you are.”

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