



"It's been a lot of texting with Jennifer," says source close to Rodriguez.

Undercover lovers Alex Rodriguez and Jennifer Lopez heat up in the Bahamas
BY SARAH GROSSBART

A-ROD & J. LO

Sexy New Romance!

"I believe in love," Lopez (in L.A. Feb. 12) told *Us* in 2014.

Jennifer Lopez was willing to play ball. Appearing on *The Daily Show With Trevor Noah* March 6, the Bronx native gamely tackled the host's questions about her hometown, eager to prove she was still Jenny From the Block. After incorrectly guessing the cost of a New York City subway ride (up a dollar since she last rode), Lopez confidently listed the stops on the 6 train. "I know this!" she told the crowd. "I named my first album *On the 6*." And when Noah asked about her recent dalliance with Grammy-winning rapper Drake, the pop star was even more frank. "Let me clear this up: I am not with Drake, OK?" she said. "Maybe that's it. That's all I need to say."

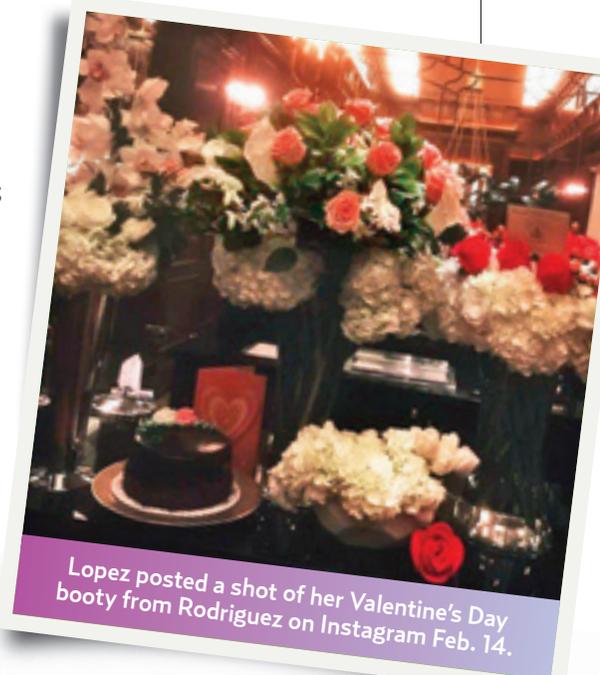
Something Lopez neglected to mention: She already had a new love interest, athlete Alex Rodriguez. And on March 12, the "Ain't Your Mama" singer posted — and then deleted — a selfie of her snuggling up to a man bearing a striking resemblance to the 41-year-old newly retired baseball pro during a romantic weekend in the Bahamas. "They've been dating for about two months," a close Lopez insider says of the pair, quickly dubbed "J-Rod" by fans. "She ended it with Drake to be with Alex." In that short time, those close to the 47-year-old multi-hyphenate have already deemed the 14-time MLB All-Star a more worthy mate than 17-years-younger Drake. "He's a better fit," explains the insider, ticking off the new duo's commonalities: They're both Latino superstars and New York natives (their childhood homes are roughly 7 miles apart); both are parents (he shares daughters Natasha, 12, and Ella, 8, with ex-wife Cynthia Scurtis; she's mom of 9-year-old twins Max and Emme with former husband Marc Anthony); and both are legends in their fields. "They really make sense," sums up the insider. After decades of serial dating, both believe they may have found their match. Says the insider, "They definitely see a future together."

HOW HE WON HER LOVE

Their connection was more than a decade in the making. For years, Lopez and the New York Yankees third baseman were casual

acquaintances (she was first photographed with him and Anthony, a Mets fan, at a 2005 game). But even as the suave home-run hitter romanced the likes of Madonna, Cameron Diaz and Kate Hudson, he always harbored a crush on Lopez. So when he attended her *All I Have* Las Vegas show in January, newly single after ending things with Silicon Valley tycoon Anne Wojcicki, he decided to make a play. "He went backstage to meet her," says the insider, "and they swapped numbers."

With her Drake fling fizzling, Lopez — who told *Us* in 2014, "I'm one of those people who does not like to be alone" — was primed for a new romance. "Alex swooped right in there," says the insider. "It was



Lopez posted a shot of her Valentine's Day booty from Rodriguez on Instagram Feb. 14.

perfect timing.” Rodriguez, now a Fox Sports analyst, was an ideal suitor. “He swept her off her feet,” says the insider. First came texts. Then came flowers. “He sent her a ton,” says the source, noting Lopez coyly posted her Valentine’s Day stash on Instagram.

For weeks, the twosome dropped sly hints of their coupling on social media. In addition to her Valentine’s brag, Lopez “liked” Rodriguez’s February 4 post. But when it came to in-person meet-ups, “they kept things secretive,” says a source close to the couple. Rodriguez — who used a back entrance to sneak into Madonna’s NYC duplex in the early days of their 2008 romance — would spend time at Lopez’s \$28 million, seven-bedroom spread in L.A.’s Bel-Air neighborhood. Nights in gave him the chance to charm Lopez *and* her kids.

Rodriguez posted a snap with ex Scurtis and daughter Ella March 9 (below). Max and Emme (in 2015) “come first,” says Lopez.



“The twins like him,” says the insider, “which is a big reason she likes him.”

When Lopez wrapped filming on her NBC reality show, *World of Dance*, however, she was eager for some adults-only time. On March 10, she and the kids hopped a private jet to Miami, where Rodriguez keeps an 11,000-square-foot home near his ex-wife. After Anthony scooped up Max and Emme from the airport, Lopez (on break from her Vegas residency until late May) climbed in Rodriguez’s waiting Maybach. Hours later, they made their way 200 miles east to the exclusive Bahamian Baker’s Bay Golf & Ocean Club in the Abaco Islands. Says the insider, “She could finally spend some real time with him.”

► **GRAND SLAM?**

A self-dubbed “relationship girl,” Lopez is a pro at high-profile romances. (See: Diddy, Bradley Cooper and her much scrutinized engagement to Ben Affleck.) But pals think Rodriguez

Inside Their Secret Getaway

The 6-mile stretch on Great Guana Cay boasts pink sand beaches, a golf course and privacy. Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner hid out there midsplit.

could be her guy. The thrice-wed *Shades of Blue* actress has said her dream man should have similar goals, be good with her kids and ooze confidence. Rodriguez rounds all three bases. Plus, there’s the potential for the Dominican baseball champ and the Puerto Rican triple threat to become one of Hollywood’s top power duos. “They’re kind of like Jay Z and Beyoncé,” muses the source.

“If people thought she and Marc were the Latin supercouple, this is on another level.” Now the couple, worth a combined \$700 million, are eyeing their next milestone. “They’ve spoken about getting all of the kids together when the time is right,” says the insider. “They’re both in the same place in their lives, and this just feels right. They’re a great match.” **US**

LET’S DIVE INTO THEIR DEEP DATING POOL

With four marriages between them, Lopez and Rodriguez have waded through a fair share of exes

His



CYNTHIA SCURTIS

In 2008, the 44-year-old ended their six-year marriage, citing “emotional abandonment.”



MADONNA

After *Us* broke the story, Scurtis accused the pop star, 58, of having an “affair of the heart.”



KATE HUDSON

Fans called the 37-year-old good luck after the Yankees won the 2009 World Series.



CAMERON DIAZ

The 44-year-old was caught on camera feeding A-Rod popcorn at 2011’s Super Bowl.



DEMI MOORE

A 2012 double date with the actress, 54, at NYC’s trendy The Lion lasted until 3 A.M.



TORRIE WILSON

Despite a 2015 split, the former WWE star, 41, said she and Rodriguez will “always” be friends.



ANNE WOJCICKI

He made his red carpet debut with the tech entrepreneur, 43, at the May 2016 Met Gala.

Hers



WESLEY SNIPES

Lopez has said her costar in 1995’s *Money Train*, 54, went after her “full-court press.”



OSJANI NOA

She divorced the Cuban waiter, 42, after a year in 1998. In 2011, he tried to shop a sex tape.



DIDDY

The romance soured after the rapper, 47, was arrested for fighting in a club in 1999.



CRIS JUDD

Citing “irreconcilable differences,” she left the dancer, 47, after nine months in 2002.



BEN AFFLECK

Fans dubbed the duo “Bennifer”; they parted two years after his 2002 proposal.



MARC ANTHONY

After seven years and two kids, she and her third husband, 48, separated in 2011.



BRADLEY COOPER

In September 2011, she and the 42-year-old shared dinner at NYC’s pricey Per Se.



BEAU ‘CASPER’ SMART

During their 2011–2016 relationship, Lopez broke up with the dancer, 29, a few times.



MAKSIM CHMERKOVSKIY

The *Dancing With the Stars* pro, 37, got flirty at her 45th birthday party in July 2014.



DRAKE

“We were just hanging,” Lopez said when Ellen DeGeneres asked about the rapper, 30.