

Toby Inspires Singles to A Smoother Ride in Dating

My testimonial

When I was a single girl living in Crown Heights, just having started shidduchim, I found the whole process to be overwhelming. My parents are incredible, wonderful nurturing people but being Baalei Teshuva, they are not the most well-connected. It seemed like my friends were getting set up left and right and I was just lonely and confused as I tried to navigate the system myself, suggesting names to my parents, waiting for them to research the boy etc. It felt like everything was just moving so slowly. I'd get really frustrated with my parents for not "searching hard enough," and not asking the "right" questions. All I wanted was to find a person who I'd be able to connect with on a deep level and build a family with.

Navigating the world of Shadchanim was no breeze either. The Shadchanim I reached out to were friendly and optimistic at first, but after not hearing from them for months on end, I became disenchanted to say the least. I felt like I had to follow up with them in order for them to remember my name! The whole thing felt needy and uncomfortable.

That was until I met Toby Liedner. From the first few moments, I felt that Toby understood me. She "got" me. She believed in me. She saw my worth and was excited to set me up. During the hour-long call I had with her, brainstorming about the top five things that are most important to me in a husband, I felt a sense of ease and optimism. The suggestions she sent me were spot on. Once, when the boy's family turned me down for a ridiculous reason (he heard that when I taught fourth grade, I didn't have the best classroom management skills) she advocated for me, asking me for more references and encouraging the boy's mother to do more research.

When a friend suggested the name of my now-husband, I immediately turned over the process over to Toby who held my hand every step of the way. Though she was in Australia and we in the United States, she guided us through the dating process with such love and wisdom. An important part of the story is that after my we went on our first date, I didn't think it was shayech at all. I told Toby, "This was a mistake. My friend must have just set me up on a whim." Gently, she encouraged me to give him another try. She was right. During the next date I saw a completely new side of him and felt deeply attracted to him. We're now happily married for almost three years.

A more personal part of the story, but one I feel is important to share nonetheless, is that at the time I was dating, I was struggling with some body image issues as many girls do. Toby guided me through it. "He's not attracted to me." I told her. She worked with me, treating me like a daughter, offering me wisdom and advice and helping me resolve whatever blockages and defences I was putting up. It was the most healing, humbling experience, being in her embrace and feeling how much she deeply cared for me. When more sensitive issues came up, regarding my pcos and future fertility, she held my hand and cheered me on, offering words of strength and bitachon while believing in my husband and I that we'd be able to make the right decision and work through it.

To anyone who's struggling to find the "one" or is struggling to feel seen and valued while navigating the shidduch process, Toby is your person. You deserve to feel seen and valued for the person you are, and you deserve a Shadchan who sees your worth. To mothers, the best gift you can give your daughters is setting them up on a discovery call with Toby where she'll brainstorm with your daughter about which top five qualities are most important to her. And you can be sure you'll be hearing from her with shidduch suggestions. When Toby is committed, she's committed through and through.

When we were engaged, she lovingly offered me the most profound marriage advice which I implement in my marriage until this day. She still checks in with me from time to time and gets emotional when I send her photos. She's someone I feel privileged to have in my life and I feel so fortunate that Hashem brought me to her, at the right time. Toby is a gift and I encourage you to get to know her and experience her gifts firsthand.

With tremendous gratitude,

Rivkah Cohen