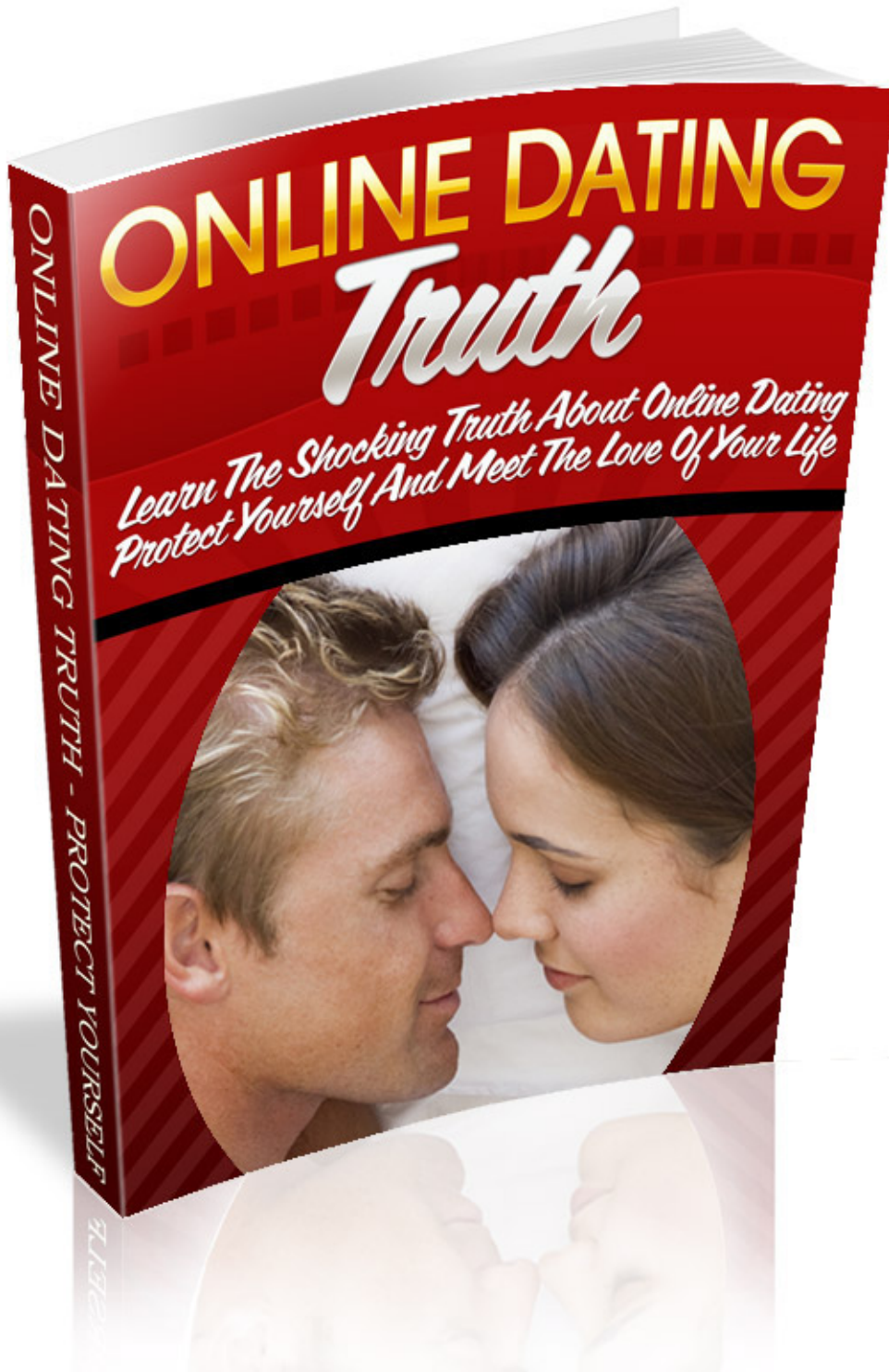


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Online Dating Truth

So, you're in love with someone you met online, or you're considering starting a relationship on the Internet. Either way, the Online Dating Truth Guide will help protect you and guide you throughout your romantic journey.

Before I get started however, I'd like to qualify myself a bit. I know that there are many guides to online dating available online, but very few of them are written by someone who has actually been there falling in love online right up to the meeting day and beyond. I have.

I met my husband online in 1998, when it wasn't so common to do so. I was 23 at the time and needless to say, my friends and family weren't thrilled with the idea of my talking to what they constantly referred to as a "stranger" online.

When it came time for us to meet, six months later, they still weren't supportive of the idea, in fact, my mother did all that she could to prevent me from making the 6 hour flight to see him.

She filled my head with "what if's" that had me doubting myself and questioning my sanity.

Back then, hardly anyone was meeting online and with the horror stories of couples meeting only to discover that they weren't compatible, or worse, that one was outright deceiving the other haunted my every waking moment.

What if he's married?

What if he isn't who he says he is?

What if he is mean or abusive ?

What if he's outright lying to me? And the list went on.

I won't lie to you, the "what if's" were in my head, too, although I wouldn't admit that to anyone.

Even though I knew I felt I knew this man better than I knew most people in my "real" life, I was filled with mixed emotions as the meeting day drew closer. I didn't doubt my love for him. I knew that I had never met anyone like him before, but I couldn't stop the butterflies that fluttered around in

my tummy, making me anxious, excited and nervous as heck.

The what if's didn't stop when it came to him either. There were 'what if's' floating around in my mind about myself, too.

What if he doesn't like me in person?

What if I make a fool of myself?

What if he outright rejects me?

What if I'm not what he is expecting?

What if I don't look as good as he thinks I do in photos?

I pondered these thoughts every day and with the butterflies at an all time high. I knew I had to talk to him about it. I called him, moments before boarding the airplane figuring I had only a few minutes left to back out.

It was now or never.

I told him how I was feeling, that I didn't question my feelings about him but rather that I wouldn't be what he wanted, or expected. He instantly gave me the reassurance and confidence that I needed. He told me that things would be fine, that he loved me, and that he already "knew" me.

So, what was I so worried about?

That phone call literally changed my life. Ten years and five children later, we are still very much in love and I can tell you with absolute certainty. There really is such a thing as soulmates.

Times Have Changed

When my husband and I met online, there were few of us that had webcams, and digital cameras were incredibly expensive. So, we relied on the old fashioned method of sending each other photos in the mail. I remember receiving the first of what would become many packages. I eagerly tore it open, holding my breath and squinting my eyes shut secretly praying that he would be everything I hoped he was.

I'm certainly not a shallow person by any means. In fact, I'm just a regular girl. But as you know there has to be that physical spark, chemistry that goes beyond the intimate connection of two personalities that meld together. I thought about the couples that were hand-selected by parents in the old days, set up to wed without ever having seen each other's face. I was excited and nervous all at the same time. I knew regardless of what

I found within the envelope I would love him no matter what. Having talked to him on the phone every day for months, I knew that he was very special and someone I could see spending the rest of my life with.

These days, I bet you find it hard to imagine having to send photos to one another through the mail. With web cams costing as little as \$20, and scanners costing around \$70, it's a lot easier to share images with one another on a regular basis.

Furthermore, with programs like Skype, you can call each other for next to nothing. Oh, wouldn't we have loved to have these options back then! Our phone bills were in the thousands each month and since email just wasn't enough, we were forced to limit our talking time to 'only' a few hours a day.

Another thing that's changed is the normalcy of meeting a potential lover online. It's not only common but it's often expected if you spend any amount of time online either because you work on the Internet or you simply enjoy hanging out in chat rooms, playing online games or meeting new people on social communities and dating sites.

Online dating truly has changed the way in which we meet potential partners. Not only can you avoid the bar scene, but you have access to free and subscription based dating sites that will help you find people who share the same interests or live in the same area without having to physically meet people until you have a feel for what they are really all about. With easy access to thousands of profiles set up by single men and women, finding someone that might be your perfect match can be as easy as clicking your mouse.

Still with all of these changes one thing still remains the same.

No matter how you meet the man or woman of your dreams on the Internet, you probably still have the same concerns I did, at least to some small degree. We feel that we know this person very well and that everything they claim to be is true and real, but somewhere in the back of our minds, we wonder, if only a little, if they really are what we believe them to be, or if somehow we aren't seeing things clearly with emotions and sentiments in the way.

Apart from those concerns, there are a few other obstacles that are often difficult to overcome if your relationship is going to be one that remains

online for quite some time before actually meeting.

We're creatures of touch, it's a sense we rely on every single day; so when we meet someone on the Internet, and that sensibility is removed, it can feel a bit awkward.

How can we love someone we have never touched or met in person?

If you have friends and family who aren't Internet savvy, these are questions that you are probably going to hear. You may even feel that you have to consistently justify your relationship or 'humanize' your partner to your family who look at him or her as an invisible entity, someone that doesn't really exist because, after all, they aren't 'real'.

While society's opinion on online dating has become more mainstream, especially with so many popular dating sites popping up all over cyberspace. There are always a few in every family who just don't understand. They can rattle your chain, cause you to second guess yourself and possibly even discourage you from ever following through.

If you are dealing with this, let me ask you one simple question.

Are you going to live your life for **you**, or possibly give up the person of your dreams because of someone else's inability to understand that **love comes in all forms**, and in my opinion at least, the ability to love someone without having the physical element involved can also be one of the **truest forms** of 'real' love?

After all, you are falling in love with who they are inside, because despite the many videos or photos that they may give you access to, their personality is the one thing that they can't easily hide or disguise. You either love them for that or it's no different than picking up someone at a bar after a few drinks. No depth.

So, abandon the notion that you shouldn't give it a shot. If they have captivated you in some way, and made you feel alive inside in a way that you have never felt before, (or felt in a long time), it's worth pursuing.

That's not to say there aren't things that you should be cautious of. You should always protect yourself as much as possible, and the Online Dating Truth guide will show you exactly how to do that.

Let's begin with one of the most common concerns that people have when meeting another online. **His real identity.**

Who Is He – Really?

Some people will tell you that it's easy to be anything you want while hidden behind a computer screen. Husbands have gone on to have multiple 'cyber' affairs while their wives are left completely unaware of the situation. Sometimes these relationships fizzle out and the husband and wife go on as if nothing happened, and other times one of the partners decides to abandon their marriage in pursuit of an online love.

It can also be argued that a wife or husband has an unfair disadvantage to an online partner who can live in fantasy and appeal to their partner in a different way than they can in 'real' life.

Think about that for a moment. When you live with someone for any length of time, after awhile things shift from that newness to a comfortable level. While for many, that's where things are truly at their best when you are free to be yourself and the awkwardness is completely gone. But for others, they constantly seek that honeymoon phase, out of the initial

excitement that comes from new relationships and meetings.

So, as stories increase of couples breaking up because of an online infidelity, it's easy to see why so many people are a bit concerned that their online lover might have more going on in their offline life than we really know about.

So, how can you minimize the risks involved, and be as certain as you can that the person you are having an online relationship with is truly unattached and interested in just you?

With staggering statistics indicating that 1 out of every 4 men posing as 'Unattached and Single' being actually married, it's easy to see why so many women are concerned about the hidden possibilities that they are unknowingly being tangled up in some three-way love triangle.

Here are a few tips that will help you determine if the person you are dating online is quite possibly, married or involved in another relationship:

- 1) Does he ask you to call him only at certain times in the day or night?

- 2) Did he provide you with his home number or just a cellular number?
- 3) Does the phone hang up abruptly at certain times and he claims the phone did it (cordless battery problems), or other reasons?
- 4) Do you hear female voices in the background during phone calls?

Believe it or not, there are also couples who mutually date different people online, knowing of each others relationships.

They aren't swingers in the traditional sense, because they typically keep the relationships online and use these meetings as a way to spruce up their marriage. This means if you hear a womans voice in the background or questionable behavior while you are talking, you should consider the possibility that something else is going on.

This doesn't mean something is! It just means that you have reason to be a bit suspicious and to investigate the situation as best as you can.

There are men who will use online dating as a disguise for their true

marital status. In fact, according to some of the popular dating sites online, over one third of all people using online dating services are in fact, married!

Here are some tips to help you determine if the man of your dreams is really as single as he claims to be:

1) He posts very limited pictures.

If your dream guy is posting very few photos of himself, or the ones that he does offer are very low quality or blurry, it might be a sign something is wrong. Most married men will not want their photographs to appear online in the event their wife, family or friends finds the photos. In fact, married men typically request to only send you photos via email or other private methods that ensure only you are able to see them.

Another way to try to fool you is to post stock photos of a professional model. Do the photos he or she shares with you look staged or overly airbrushed or slick-commercial? If yes, try to get the person to send you some photos of them in a natural setting like camping, washing the car, at work, standing in front of their church, or with their pets, or in a family photo, or with their friends. This forces them to send you photos that

cannot be easily faked. It also opens up a wider window into their world, giving you two even more to talk about.

2) Limited Details

According to research regarding married men using online dating sites, it's very common that married men are the aggressors in the relationship, initially contacting women via private message or email.

They keep their information limited and rarely give a lot of details into their life but instead, ask an abundance of questions to determine your personality type. In other words, they want to know if you are naive enough to believe the lies they will spin throughout your online relationship.

3) Erratic Behaviour

If you are finding your online interest acting strangely in terms of when they appear online, whether they don't seem to be available to you as often as you are to them, it could be a sign that they are off spending time with their family, and are unable to be around as often as a single man interested in a woman online would be.

If he seems to be responding to you at scheduled times, such as 12pm weekdays, but never on weekends, you should consider the possibility he may have a wife and perhaps even children at home that occupy his time.

4) One Directional Contact

If your partner is unwilling to give you his phone number and instead, always insists on calling you, it's a red flag (further discussed in the next chapter). If he asks you for your phone number and is not prepared to give you his, I would consider telling him that you are not ready to share your number if he is unable to provide you with his.

If you do decide to give him your number, ask him for his number while you have him on the phone and it's harder for him to get out of it. Also, watch that he isn't calling you from a payphone number or a blocked call set up so that you are unable to determine where he is calling from.

Of course, just because a man is not willing to give you his number early on, does not mean he is married or even has anything to hide. It could be a matter of him being a private person, or cautious about who he allows to contact him. However, if you have been talking for more than a few weeks, and he is still not interested in providing you with the information

you need so you can contact him whenever you want to, it's definitely something to think about. Give him a little more time, and then start looking for the 'red flags' covered later on in this chapter.

I would also be cautious of a man who is only willing to provide you with his cellular number, rather than a land line phone. With a cell phone, he is able to talk to you away from home and shut it off when his wife or children are present. Furthermore, cell phones are usually untraceable, meaning that you will not even be able to determine his exact location when running the number through a reverse phone directory.

Furthermore, if you are given a phone number, whether it be a land line or a cell number, if you are consistently reaching his voice mail rather than being able to contact him directly, it's another red flag to watch out for.

With the ease in which you can set up a phone number online with sites like www.GotVMail.com, it's possible that he might have a false number set up to direct to his home or cell phone at certain hours, and outside of that time frame, it simply directs to voice mail. This enables him to keep you from contacting him when he is at home with family, while satisfying your request for a real number.

His Life, His Past

If your partner is really vague when divulging details about himself, including his family and his childhood, you may want to take a step back and consider the reasons.

Married men will do just about anything to avoid a conversation with an online affair that will result in giving 'too much information away'. They want to remain mysterious to protect their real life and their family, and you should be able to see this based on his behaviour with you and how willing he is to talk about himself and his family including where he grew up. If he consistently turns the conversations towards you, asking you questions rather than answering ones given to him, it's a definite red flag.

Personal Details

If your partner is unwilling to give you important information about him, such as his location, last name, or occupation (and company name) after weeks or months of talking, you need to consider the reasons why he is so reluctant.

Of course, when you first begin talking to each other, it's common not to

want to share every little snippet of information with one another.

After all, it's a new relationship and regardless of how connected you may feel you should be careful not to disclose too much about each other until you have spent the time talking and feel secure that they really are what they claim. However, if you have put in the time and he is still resisting disclosure of his personal information, or seems interested in keeping you at a distance, you need to consider the reasons and protect yourself accordingly.

You should both be on the same level and if that isn't the case and you feel as though you are putting in all of the effort, you need to put a bit of distance between the two of you until he is willing to give you as much as you are giving him.

Which brings us to the next mini-chapter, dedicated to the many red flags that you should pay attention to.

Suspecting any of the following 'Red Flags' should prompt you to visit www.DatingDetective.net to check him out further

Finding things a little too good to be true? With online dating comes the opportunity to re-invent yourself, and become someone completely different from your «real life» persona.

So, when trying to determine whether he is telling you the truth about himself and his lifestyle, here are some of the red flags that our team of women have uncovered over the years.

No Address Information

It's logical not to give your full address to just everyone you meet online. However, if you have been talking to him for more than a few months and he is still reluctant to give you a mailing address or phone number, it's definitely a red flag that something may be amiss. Most guys enjoy getting presents, especially a batch of his favorite homemade cookies. If he won't even give you his mailing address for cookies, something is wrong.

Meeting Dates Change

If you two have planned to meet at a certain time and place and he backs out with no real reason OR he backs out after multiple excuses, it's time to consider the potential that perhaps he isn't as serious about meeting you

as you are. Some men enjoy online relationships and have no intention of bringing them to 'life', so be careful with this one and don't waste your time chasing after someone who has no plans of bringing your relationship to the all important next level. It is 'normal' to want to meet face-to-face.

Sudden Departure

If you two are in the middle of a conversation and he suddenly goes offline, goes idle or on a phone conversation simply hangs up, you should consider the potential reasons for his sudden disappearance. Is he hiding his conversations from someone who just walked into the room?

Controlling Nature

If your online lover seems to be very jealous with you when they don't hear from you at certain times, or you don't keep them up to date on every move you make, it might be time to re-evaluate the situation. If a relationship starts like this while it's online, consider how things will be once you two take it to a one on one relationship.

Specific Time Frames

If your partner is only available to talk to you late at night, or specific time frames (outside of the fact they work during the day), you should consider

that perhaps the last night conversation time frame is based around their spouse going to bed at a specific time.

Just the same, if you two plan to meet and the times he is available to spend with you are always during the day, with few available weeknights or weekends, it could be possible that he is married and is unable to get away from his family. Invite him to spend the night at your parent's home for dinner (once you are at that point) and see what his response is. Better yet, ask him to plan a weekend away with you and your friends or family. If he constantly gives you excuses or the local motel seems to be his idea of your most common meeting place, beware.

Moving Too Fast

If you have just met someone you are interested in and within days they are professing their love for you, that's certainly a red flag. While it's possible to fall in love quickly, online dating is a different style of dating and typically it takes longer than an in-person date may take to get to know someone enough to feel that strongly for them. Just the same, if they want to meet you within days, you should be a little cautious about their real motives. Dating and getting to a deep enough relationship level to start talking about getting married usually takes way more time for

women than for men, unless of course the man (or woman) just has a "thing" against ever getting married, period. And then the subject seldom, if ever comes up. Be sure that the guy you are dating is actually dating you and not some fantasy of you that he made up in his imagination.

Sexual Persuasion

If you find that the majority of the time spent on the phone with him is based around phone sex, I would consider the possibilities that perhaps he is only interested in an online sexual affair, and is not interested in getting to know you – for you.

If the majority of your conversations tend to lead towards the discussion of a future sexual encounter (what you will do to each other once you meet, etc.), or he consistently insists on you being sexual on cam, or sending him nude photos of yourself while your 'talking time' is rather limited, beware. No woman likes to be used, and she should expect and get better treatment than that kind of superficial crap from a man.

Limited Photographs

If your partner is not interested in sending you an abundance of photographs, you should question the reasons why.

While it's common to be shy and unsure of yourself when it comes to online dating, once you two have spent the time getting to know each other, and are at the point where a scheduled meeting time has been set, there is no reason why you should not be willing to get web cams and be open to sending photographs. If the only pictures you have ever seen are a couple of professional shots that appear in his dating profile, be leery.

When emotions are involved, it's easy to quickly justify things that you know. But, in the back of your mind, just don't make all the sense in the world. You have to be careful not to get too wrapped in him until you are sure (as sure as you can be), that he's being upfront and honest with you.

I have seen so many women get too involved, too quickly only to discover that there is an underlying reason for his seeking out a partner online, if only for the cyber and phone sex, to even deeper reasons, like wanting to get out of his country and needing someone to sponsor his move (and even pay for it) to another country.

You can't build a relationship on pure hope alone. It needs to be solid, true and real. The fact you haven't met in person yet shouldn't take away

from that. You need to feel as if you HAVE met him, and know him inside and out before you make that move or committ yourself completely to him.

And of course, the age old method of determining whether a man is married or not is looking at his ring finger, either in photographs, on camera or when meeting in person. If he has a circle of lighter skin around the base of his ring finger, it's definitely a red flag.

While this isn't always a sign that he is married (many men wear rings on their ring finger that aren't wedding bands), it could be a sign that there is more to him than meets the eye. Ask him about it on the phone and catch him off guard. See what his response is, and go from there.

Suspecting any of these 'Red Flags' should prompt you to visit www.DatingDetective.net to check him out further!

Why Do People Meet Online?

One of the most common questions that I receive from those who contact me for advice in regards to their online relationship is how to explain the situation to their friends and family. There is nothing worse than being in

love and having those around you not really understand what you are feeling, or encouraging you to pursue your relationship. Before you allow the skeptics in your life to ruin a good thing, set some ground rules. Tell them how much you appreciate their love and concern for you, but be very firm that your commitment to your online dating relationship is really your own private business. You only share bits of information with family and friends who respect your right to run your own life.

My advice is always the same, you need to be open enough with your friends and family to explain how you feel, and whenever possible, consider having him talk to your family on the phone briefly, if only for an introduction and to let them know that he really is interested and sincere.

Ultimately, it's going to be something that a lot of people need to see to believe and as your relationship progresses to the point of meeting, once you have taken those steps your family and friends are far more likely to accept the situation and welcome him into the family with open arms.

Remember, above all else, even if you feel as though they aren't being supportive of you, they love you and have your best interests at heart. It's understandable that they would be a bit concerned, especially with how

many online relationships are built around deceit or ulterior motives.

So, be patient with them and try to see things from their perspective.

Internet Dating Success

In order to get the most out of your online dating adventures, you want to showcase yourself in the best possible way. If you use online dating services to browse through potential partners, then your first step should be to create the best profile possible, one that highlights your personality and clearly emphasizes your integrity and honesty.

For instance, a profile designed to be provocative or too suggestive can attract the wrong kind of men, those who are only interested in an on or offline fling or short term relationships rather than serious, long term ones. You want to make sure that your profile is as straight forward as possible and that you represent yourself in the same way that you would with a face-to-face meeting.

It's far too easy to create a profile that sounds sexy and mysterious, even if you would never act that way in person. Take your time when creating

your profile and word it meticulously so that you are being as honest with what you are looking for as possible. You might not receive as much of a response as you would if you simply posted up a profile that gave the impression you were looking for casual encounters, but at least the majority of those that do contact you will be clear on what it is that you want, and hopefully want the same thing.

With so much competition out there, it's easy to get caught up in creating the 'perfect' profile that is anything but reality. Don't ever resort to lying or posting a fake picture of yourself in the hopes of garnering attention. These things will only lead to disaster when it comes time to meet the guy of your dreams and you have so many things you need to explain.

In fact, I have seen women create false profiles with stock photos of gorgeous, slim women or relatives (friends, that hot cousin in Florida, etc) and when they do meet someone that they are attracted to, they have sabotaged the relationship so badly, that they have no way of really following through and meeting the guy because there are just too many lies involved.

Do you really want to put yourself in that situation?

Furthermore, if you do use a fake photo, or even a photo of yourself ten years ago, you risk the chance that he is falling in love with someone that is far from your current state. It's an awkward feeling having a man profess his love to you under the guise that you look different than you really do, especially as he comments on how beautiful you are. It can not only be uncomfortable but exceptionally painful.

Here are some other tips on creating a real profile that will attract the right kind of attention:

1) Be Positive

There is nothing more unattractive than someone who feels the world is against them. Bitter comments or a negative outlook will attract the 'doom and gloom' types and trust me, it won't be a very enjoyable experience. Regardless of how many broken online relationships (or offline for that matter) that you have gone through, do not include this information within your profile.

Don't state things such as 'No Liars, Please', because what this tells others about you is that you have been around the block a time or two, and some of the nicer guys who are new to online dating might feel as

though you have had far too many online relationships or that you aren't serious about a long term commitment. Keep your profile focused on positive aspects of you and your life.

2) TMI

There really is such a thing as a profile created to feature '**too much information**'. While certain dating sites out there will encourage you to post as much information as possible, there is always something to be said about a profile that runs three pages in length. It speaks of either desperation or self-centered nature, neither of which is attractive.

Keep your profile clear and to the point. Give the world a bit of information about you, enough in fact for those viewing it to get a feel for the kind of person that you are, but leave out intimate details about yourself. If you have children, for obvious reasons, this is something you should not include in your profile, and in fact, you should refrain from even discussing with new men until you have spent at least a couple of months talking.

3) Stand Out From The Crowd

There is a fine line between being unique and just being weird; however, it's important for you to beef up your profile so that it stands out from the

thousands of others out there. Too many profiles look exactly the same, and in order for you to attract as much attention as possible, you need to take a different approach. What is quirky about you? How are you different? How can you describe yourself in a different way than 99% of what's out there?

Spice up your profile by being descriptive, unique and fun!

4) Filter Out the Wrong Types

The objective of your profile isn't to receive the most responses but rather, the **best** responses, meaning the kind of guys that you would be interested in. Otherwise, if all you do is craft a profile that will attract every Tom, Dick & Hairy, you will spend a lot of time filtering out those who are interesting to you from those who are simply not your type.

On dating sites, you are given the option to select age ranges and other information specific to certain types. Use these to your advantage and whenever possible be as specific as you can. If you like clean-shaven, say so. If you prefer men who are funny, say so. Don't be afraid to talk about exactly what you are interested in, and if age isn't important to you, say that as well. Just be sure you really mean it. It is one thing to say that

age, race, religion, etc. are not important to you because they truly, deep down do not matter to you. It is quite another thing to do so just to be popular or appear open-minded or politically correct. You do not have to hide your true preferences because everyone has a right to be unique.

Online Dating: Safety First

Online dating is one of the easiest ways to meet interesting people from all walks of life who share your interests and passions.

Still, with the ease in which you can reach out and communicate with thousands of potential partners, there are things that you need to do in order to ensure your safety. Here are ten tips to help keep you safe during your online dating adventures.

Protect Your Information

Your phone number, your full name and even your exact location are easy ways for someone to track you down and determine exactly who you are and where you live. In fact, once someone has your phone number using specific service based websites, they can obtain information on your income, your physical address and even discover the value of your

property. With additional information including your first and last name, someone is easily able to determine where you work and what you do.

During the initial stage of communication, protect your details and safeguard your privacy by keeping all correspondence online.

Furthermore, you should use a free email account such as www.Gmail.com or www.hotmail.com to add an extra layer of protection to your identity.

If you would like to communicate with him by phone, subscribe to a service such as www.gotvmail.com that will allow you to set up a local number that will automatically (and invisibly) forward calls received at that number to any other number you wish.

That way, you can give him a number with which he can reach you while cloaking your real number. Once you have spent some time talking to him over the course of at least two months, you can always give him your actual phone number if you are comfortable doing so. In the event he doesn't turn out to be what you believed, you can cancel your service with GotVmail.com and he will never know how to contact you directly.

Another way to protect your information is to use the Skype service to communicate. The rates are affordable and you can chat with each other using your computer headset and microphone.

Take A Closer Look

When you are talking to someone, do your best to look carefully at their behaviors. If you find that they are controlling, overly aggressive, are constantly questioning you, or are easily angered, it's probably a good idea to end the relationship before it progresses to the stage of meeting. These traits are difficult to change without help, and you may find yourself in an abusive relationship if you allow it to continue. Also, when using a webcam, pay attention to little details in the background, like photos on his walls, neatness of the room, (is his bed made?) and the lighting/mood.

Ask The Tough Questions

It's difficult for us women to ask some of the harder questions without feeling as if we are doubting our partner or not, but with online dating it's very important to take that step, and ask some of the tougher questions that we desperately need answers to. Things such as if the photo he sent you is current, if he would agree to purchase a web cam so that you can see him 'live' before you meet, and even asking if he is married,

separated or divorced are all questions that, when venturing into a relationship with someone, you are more than entitled to know.

Meet In A Public Place

When it comes to the first meeting, be sure that you meet in a place in which you are comfortable, such as a restaurant or coffee shop and provide your own transportation. Avoid going back to his place during the first meeting, never agree to be picked up at your home, and make sure that a family member or friend knows where you are at all times. These are VERY important so don't overlook them even if you feel you will be completely safe with him. It's not worth the risk. If you can afford it, buy a cell phone with GPS which can track your location even if it is turned off.

Follow Your Instincts

Your inner instincts are an incredible tool for knowing when something really doesn't feel right. It's also a good measure as to whether you feel comfortable progressing to the next level with someone that you met online. If it feels too soon for you, then it is. If you need time to think about the situation, take that time.

Don't ever allow yourself to be pressured into making radical decisions

that you may regret later on. Sometimes you need to take a step back from the situation and allow your instincts to take control. It's the most powerful psychological tool at your disposal. Use it. Trust it.

Final Thoughts:

Be careful that you don't get too attached, too quickly. There are men out there that will tell you exactly what you want to hear, just to provoke you into lowering your guard so he can weasel his way into your life with less than impressive intentions. If something feels too good to be true, it most likely is. Just like offline relationships, online ones aren't always easy and carefree. You should be compatible but at the same time, different people as well. If you feel that everything you like – he likes, and everything you say, he agrees with, it might be a case of someone trying to impress you too much rather than being honest with you. Beware!

Take your time. If you are serious about meeting someone that you can spend the rest of your life with, there is no sense in moving too quickly. If you do, you're likely to overlook real possibilities and your judgement will be based entirely on emotion, which is a dangerous way to approach something as unpredictable as online dating.

With over 100 marriages taking place each day from relationships that started online, **you really can meet the man of your dreams over the Internet.** With a bit of common sense and by following the tips within this guide, you are well on your way to maximizing your results and minimizing your risks. In any man you choose to love, at any age or station in life, his character of being honest, trustworthy and loyal; and his devotion to loving, protecting and cherishing you; is what you should find the most attractive and desirable. Then chemistry and compatibility are allowed to glue you two together with real security. Copyright © 2009 Nextin, Inc. All rights reserved.

To your dating success!

<http://www.OnlineDatingTruth.com>

Juliet Klee



As a Special Bonus, I Have Included This Chapter on Men:

Six Types of Men Smart Women Don't Date

Perhaps some of you have done all the work and you are now recovered from the heartache of a divorce or breakup. You look and feel better than you ever have; you are ready to risk your heart to a long-term relationship. If you were married for a long time to a man you met relatively early on in life you need to realize that it's a whole new world when dating today. The world is not the safe place it used to be and you need to be especially alert for the six most common types of men to avoid. No matter what your past dating experience has been, you need to date smartly!

1. Mr. Chameleon. This man is so smooth he will have you hanging on his every word. He has studied women for years and he is an expert. He can size you up in the first ten minutes of conversation. If he finds out you were hurt by a cheating husband he will go on and on about how he is a one-woman man. If he finds out that you have kids at home he will talk about how much he enjoys children. **He becomes what he senses that you want.** The problem is he tells that same thing to every woman he goes out with. He has an

- agenda. He is not interested in much more than getting you into bed. He may spend a couple of dates wining and dining you until he achieves his goal and then once you give in you will never see him again. On webcam he may try to charm your clothes off of you.
2. Mr. Miserable. You meet him and he is drop dead good looking. You can't believe your good luck that a man like this 'hot guy' is still on the market. He tells you that he has been divorced for two years or more and you are thrilled. "He must be ready to move on to a new relationship," you think! On your first date he spends thirty minutes to an hour talking about his ex and how wrong she did him. He talks about how much money he lost in the divorce, he talks about how much his child support is and the fact that he hardly ever sees his children anymore. You try to change the subject. You ask him about his job, his hobbies and he always finds a way to get the subject back to how bad life has treated him. Every moment you spend with him from this point on will be spent stroking his ego and listening to his problems. He's depressing to spend time with and in the middle of the date he mentions "I am not sure I want to ever get married again and risk losing it all again." Thank him for the dinner and move on. Online he may try to guilt-trip your ear off.
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3. Mr. Sonny Boy. Sonny Boy men are looking for a mother figure. They hang on your every word. They are especially interested in how much money you make, what you do for a living and where you live. They admit that they are not working presently. It's not their fault, they tell you. They were supposed to have a job last week and it fell through, they were going to move out of moms but they thought it would be best to save some money so they could buy a home. If you cook, that's even better. They love home cooking but it needs to taste just like moms. They are always looking for a job, a car, and the next handout. If you are looking for a real man, don't let your heart get taken in by Sonny Boy. Some women who have fallen in love with the Sonny Boy man have taken care of them for years. They can't keep jobs and they like having a soft place to fall each time they find a new reason to quit. Online they may try to wear down your defences. Don't be an enabler.

4. Mr. Cocker Spaniel. They say that Cocker Spaniels are comfortable like an old pair of house shoes. They say that Cocker Spaniels follow you everywhere and never leave your side. They say that Cocker Spaniels are jealous of any other dog in the house. They

say that Cocker Spaniels are broken hearted any time you leave the house to go anywhere without them. The bottom line is that this man's whole life revolves around you. It seems flattering at first but after the newness wears off you end up feeling smothered. Any man you date needs to have a life of his own, he needs to be able to trust that you are your own person and trust that you will come back to him and him only. The Cocker Spaniel Man will never believe that and he may make a big "mess" when you don't come home immediately. Online he may email you so often that even SPAM will start to taste good, woof...woof.

5. Mr. Always Right. Mr. Always Right is opinionated, judgmental, and egotistical and prejudice. Usually good looking, well educated and rich. He has never had to put up with anyone who does not kiss his hind end. He will knock your political beliefs, your religious views and your acceptance of anybody with diverse lifestyles or minorities. He loves baiting you and then knocking your opinion. He usually will mock you, roll his eyes and generally make you feel "less" than him. You begin to realize, after dating Mr. Always Right that no amount of money or prestige is worth dating this man. Online he might try to flatter you into thinking that he is always right, in control,

reliable. But is giving up one's true self esteem ever worth any man? Strong and silent might start to look pretty good after a couple of hours with Mr. Always Right.

6. Mr. Lazy Limp Daisy. Now girls, shame on you, we are not talking about his limp sexual performance in the marriage bed. Mr. Lazy Limp Daisy wants a woman who will do everything for him. He is so passive and selfish that his middle name is "Do For Me" and his girl friend does do for him. She waits on him hand and foot. So much so that she just cannot keep it up. She just cannot keep up lavishing him with attention, cannot keep up the intensity of her devotion to being a door mat for him that she eventually falls apart and so does the relationship. She is so in love with him, or is so desperate to be in love with any man, and have any kind of a relationship at all that she practically carries both sides of the relationship all the time. She plans all the dates, get-togethers with friends, does all his shopping, buys all kinds of gifts for him, and if he "needs" to do something nice for her, she even buys the flowers or gifts for him to give to her, heck she may even pick up after him and do his laundry and dirty dishes. She does everything for Mr. Lazy Limp Daisy except for the one thing she really should to do for him. And that is kick his butt. Or better yet, value herself enough to

leave him and find a guy who will respect and cherish her and strongly carry his half of the relationship. Dating Mr. Lazy Limp Daisy is a lot like a little girl playing with passive dolls only in this case the "Ken" doll can actually talk to "Barbie" and he usually says things like, "I've got to watch the game. So could you run down to the store'n'get me some more beer and chippies?" Oh, Please!

By now you may be wondering if you can trust yourself to ever date again for fear of dating a loser. It's not as bad as it seems. It simply takes a lot of discernment and following your intuition when you are dating new people. The most important advice to someone re-entering the dating scene is **TAKE YOUR TIME**. Don't take dating so seriously, think of each new date as a learning experience. You are worth the time it takes to weed out the losers! Remember the old adage "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is." Be willing to date a few losers so that you can appreciate the "winners" that much more when you meet them, and never lose faith that you will surely meet some "winners."

They're out there!

And not all men out there find the need to substitute porn for real intimacy!

Catch a Little Glimpse of Guys' Dating Fears and Insecurities

When you find what my grandma called "a Keeper," reel him in and "Keep him" happy . . . and he will "keep you happy."

When you ask many guys, "What scares you, or freaks you out about women and dating relationships?" here is what you may find out.

Many Guys don't like TEARS, FEARS and SHEARS.

TEARS.

For the most part men are uncomfortable dealing with too much emotion. Stuff like a woman crying, or confronting them in a heated highly emotional argument freaks men out. Men are pretty much linear-thinking, goal oriented focusers, looking for logical solutions. For the most part, during the course of a typical guy's day, he feels little or no emotions. Unless of course his boss yells at him, then he feels mad. For us more "emotional" women, it is almost impossible for us to understand how anyone could go through the day not feeling at least something.

If a typical guy were asked, "How do you feel about flying through that canyon at half the speed of sound, dropping the fire retardant before the flames blow your plane up, and saving the forest?" He would most likely say something like, "just doing my job, man, no big deal!"

For the most part your feelings are totally illogical to many guys. That is not to say that "women's intuition" is not something that guys should find very useful. Guys do not tend to need to "talk things out" in order to find closure, comfort or intimacy. They tend to skip all the small talk and jump ahead to some logical solution. Tell a guy how your day went and why you are crying because of what happened at work, you get a solution, or what he sees as a solution.

Again, men are pretty much linear-thinking, goal oriented focusers, looking for logical solutions. Some guys are really good listeners, however. So, if you spend hours and hours each month sharing your feelings with your guy, don't expect him to always share his feelings with you. Most likely,

depending on the subject, you are either going to hear quite a bit of silence or "a logical solution" from your male linear-thinking, goal oriented focuser, looking for logical solutions.

On the other hand, give your man something tangible to fix, like assembling your new bike, or replacing your dead car battery, or installing a new light fixture and he is in seventh heaven. He can show off his tools and show how good he is with his tools, brag to you about all the things he's fixed or built, and "feel" like a real man's man. Also, remember, for the most part men are brought up not to show "fear" or not to be overly emotional "sissy boys" who won't charge straight ahead into the heat of battle, compete and win.

FEARS.

Many guys do have real or imagined relationship fears, especially when they first start dating a woman. In fact the Male ego is in many ways really quite fragile for being wrapped up in such a "strong" body compared to most women.

When a male linear-thinking, goal oriented focuser, looking for logical solutions, has you in his sites: his biggest fear is not knowing if other men are chasing you too. Talk about the fragile Male ego; men are so competitive that the very thought of losing you to some other guy is bound to haunt his every waking moment. You could reassure him and encourage him with a little extra attention, but only if you think you might like him. And don't overdo it you could spoil the challenge of chasing you.

Don't surrender too quickly. Men thrive on challenges so maybe let him fear the competition just a little bit longer. He will value you all that much more, if and when he wins your heart.

Talk about insecurity, even after he has maybe, just maybe won your heart even just a tiny bit he will still have hidden fears like these at least for a little while: Is he good enough for you? Are you going to reject him after all? Maybe you'll meet someone else? Maybe he just won't measure up to you in terms of career growth, education, earnings and other

big accomplishments? What if she thinks I am a wussy for not getting more physical? What if she thinks I'm going too fast? Should I kiss her more often? Am I calling her often enough? Is she still flirting with that other guy she likes? Should I tell her that she should only date me?

Remember, compared to most guys us women are very relationship oriented with a tremendous capacity for intimacy. Perhaps we should keep this in mind and adjust our expectations of guys just a little bit.

Women are almost all natural born flirts compared to most guys. We are also very good at multitasking compared to many guys. So, if you think you might like some guy who is focused on you, some male linear-thinking, goal oriented focuser, looking for logical solutions, and he is also pretty cute, well then flirt with him, reassure and encourage him, challenge him. But most of all know that deep down inside whether he will admit it or not, he has fears just like the rest of us humans looking to love and be loved.

SHEARS.

My grandma told me that for the most part guys are a lot like dogs. They do not care about frilly lace shears on the windows. If asked if they like the snow white shears or the egg shell shears best, honestly they don't care what you cover the windows with. And as for privacy, well if they see someone peeking in the window, no sweat! A guy will just go out and pound the peeping Tom, or maybe shoot him.

Again, for the most part keeping guys happy is a lot like caring for a dog. Dogs remain loyal and obedient as long as you keep them well fed, focused on an important goal like fetching a ball, don't rub them the wrong way, pet them often especially petting their egos, and keep them well supplied with newspapers, and even then be prepared to clean up after them. Dogs, and guys, do not tend to care much about what colors us cats, and women, use to make our world enjoyable.

In other words, let your man be a 'real' man most of the time.

And reward him really well whenever he does something really, really brave or “feminine” like holding your purse in public, especially while you are in the dressing room trying on an hour's worth of shopping conquests. When you pop out of the dressing room, thank him “big time” before you even ask him if he likes what you are wearing. The truth is, he likes you, so he probably likes whatever you are wearing. He does not like holding your purse in the lady's dressing room section, but he likes you. So he does it.

Warning: no matter what, do not make clothes shopping your first date, or second, or third or...well you know what to do.

In fact, save clothes shopping as a special test to see if your man earns a special doggy treat for being a good boy. Let's say, for every hour of shopping he “endures” he deserves a fifteen minute back rub and a home cooked steak dinner. Oh, and about that back rub, get him started talking during a really good back rub and he just might share his “feelings” with you or at least try to.

Online Dating Resources

Dating Assistance and Dating Safety:

Always Get A Background Check Before Dating Or Meeting a Stranger! <http://www.DatingDetective.net> - Dating Safety begins by smart singles, especially women, deciding to be their own Dating Detective to do background checks on men before dating or sharing any personal information. The Dating Detective service allows you to do an unlimited number of background checks on the single men you date without them ever even knowing it. So you can find out about any man you are interested in and see if he is really a liar, or married, or worse yet, a convicted criminal or sex offender, before it is too late--your first date and maybe even your life depends on it.

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