



Maggie

Don't fall for SCAMMER SUMMER!

These women were duped by ticket touts – heed their warnings this season...

SCAM-PAGNE SUPERNOVA

Turning the TV on, breaking news flashed up, Oasis announce long-awaited reunion tour!

'Oh my god!' I gasped. My dad Stuart and I were super fans. There was no *definitely maybe* about it. We had to go.

But despite arming ourselves with every device we had, we didn't get tickets.

Looking at resales, we couldn't believe how much people were charging. However, I was determined. Then on TikTok, I came across a video.

A girl was selling two tickets for one of the Manchester shows.

The account had tens of thousands of likes, and the clip seemed legitimate.

Contacting her via Instagram, I agreed to buy both for £125 each.

However, cautious, I decided to buy one ticket first.

Then if it's all OK, I'll buy the second, I reasoned.

The seller said that was fine, giving me her account details.

It didn't work first time.

But after sending over different details, my £125 went through.

Then she sent over a screenshot and wrote, *I can only send the tickets over in pairs. Can you send over the full payment for both tickets?*

Suddenly I felt unsure. But I'd come this far. So, I reluctantly sent over £250.

When can you send the tickets? I wrote. Hang on please, I'm just waiting for them

to go through, she replied.

But days went by, and she kept coming up with excuses.

Fearing the worst, I asked my pal to contact her to see if she still had the tickets for sale.

I've got four! she replied.

I'd been scammed!

'I just wanted to surprise Dad,' I told Mum, feeling sick.

Next day, we visited my bank. They were understanding and, unexpectedly, gave me my money back.

Then, another surprise...

Refusing to just *roll with it*, I'd made a TikTok video warning others.

And online protection company, McAfee, got in touch.

They were sorry to hear what I'd gone through and, to make up for it, offered me two tickets to see Oasis at Wembley.

I could've cried my heart out!

Dad and I had the best night.

Scammers have become even more sophisticated, and I wish I hadn't ignored the signs.

My advice? Pay attention to inconsistencies and only buy through official resale sites.

I've learned my lesson – and I *don't look back in anger!*

Maggie McNamee, 18, St Saviour, Jersey

● For advice on staying safe when buying tickets, visit mcafee.com and search, 'cyber scam'

WICKED BEHAVIOUR

Grabbing my phone, I texted my best friend Danielle.

Ariana Grande is touring, we have to go! I wrote.

We'd both been fans for years, and were so excited about the prospect of seeing her.

'I'll try for tickets in the pre-sale and general sale if we need to,' Danielle said later, as I was working when tickets went on sale.

However, both times she was unsuccessful.

Determined, I scoured Facebook groups.

This looks authentic, I thought as I came across a Ticketmaster reselling group.

I posted asking if anyone had two tickets for one of Ariana's London shows.

Soon, I was inundated with replies.

I went through the responses to see who looked the most trustworthy.

This looks OK to you, right? I texted Danielle, alongside screenshots.

She agreed, so I went ahead.

The seller was offering two standing tickets in London for £150 all-in, which seemed like a bargain.

After sending their bank details, I tried to send the money, only their details didn't work.

They sent me different details, and this time it worked.

But instead of sending me the tickets, they wrote, *You need to send me another £50 to change the name on the tickets.*

Confused, I'd never heard of that before.

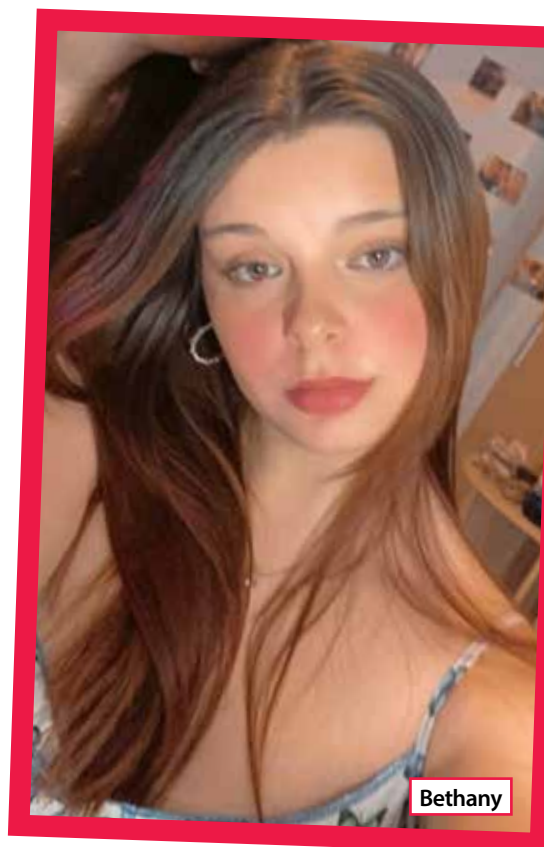
Alarm bells started ringing.

Suspecting they were scamming me, I asked for my money back.

Only then I was ghosted.

Fuming, I told my bank I'd been the victim of fraud and managed to get £120 back.

Still intent on getting tickets, I decided to try my luck again in the



Bethany

Facebook group, posting about what happened.

Another poster who looked authentic commented and said they had two tickets for sale.

As before, we exchanged details, and Danielle sent her money for the tickets.

But this time, the bank name was different to her Facebook name.

Oh it's my husband's account, she reassured.

Still wary, Danielle sent half the money, explaining she'd send the other half once we received the tickets, which she was fine with.

But after giving her £100, we were met by radio silence.

We were both absolutely gutted and couldn't believe we'd been scammed twice.

Luckily, Danielle managed to get £50 back from her bank, but we weren't able to get tickets.

We assumed people would be honest and want to help fellow fans.

How wrong we were.

Bethany Humphrey, 21, Worthing, W Sussex



We loved Ariana



Caitlin and Ami

SOME CON-CERT!

Sitting on the sofa, I was ready.

My pal Caitlin and I adored Billie Eilish, and were both in the pre-sale queue for her Hit Me Hard and Soft tour.

However, they instantly sold out.

General sale sold out in a matter of minutes too.

'Surely people will want to resell their tickets if they can't go,' I said.

We kept an eye on resale sites, and were shocked at how expensive tickets were being listed for.

Both students, we just couldn't afford such extortionate prices.

But one day, I saw someone selling two tickets on Facebook.

A woman said her daughter accidentally bought tickets for the wrong date.

Seems valid, I thought.

Just to be sure, I searched for her on Instagram.

Her account looked real, and I felt confident going ahead.

We agreed on a sale and I sent her over the money.

I actually need £100 more, she then wrote.

I was confused, but she was adamant she couldn't send them without the additional payment.

Angry, I replied, *I'm not sending you any more*

money as that wasn't part of the deal.

After some back and forth, she relented.

But when I received them, they had a different name on them and came from a weird email address.

Even stranger, the tickets said *Billie Eilish Royal Tour* on them.

'They look fake,' Caitlin fretted.

However, so keen to see Billie, we got ready and made our way to the venue.

Approaching security, I got the tickets up on my phone.

A guard scanned them then said, 'Sorry, these are fake.'

Caitlin and I looked at each other, crushed.

We raced towards the ticket office, but the show was sold out.

Online, all the tickets were listed for over £1,000.

We waited outside and heard a few songs before we decided to go home.

Feeling deflated, I contacted my bank and the police.

Unfortunately, my bank said there wasn't enough evidence to dispute the charge, and I never heard back from the police.

We were left out of pocket, and never got to see Billie.

I'll never make that mistake again!

Ami Chhabra, 18

Outside the concert

