

Online Dating: A Way to Find Your Valentine?

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Valentine's Day is upon us, and with it comes a parade of feelings. Some are happy and excited to celebrate the love they've found; the rest of humanity is left wondering what they've done to end up alone on this Day of Love. The latter group, then, must take matters into their own hands. The most popular way to do that, you ask? Online dating.

Now, hear me when I say that online dating doesn't always end in disaster. In fact, 42% of adults say they believe online dating makes it easier to find a partner! But, for me, online dating apps were not helpful in finding the perfect valentine. Let me tell you why.

It's a calm evening during my freshman year of college. I get back from work and get ready for my big event for the night: a Bumble date. After an hour of hair, makeup, and outfit changes, I drive to the Tropical Smoothie Cafe we're meeting at.

Things go awry from the start. I arrive at the location, but he's not there. He arrives ten minutes later and explains he's running behind due to "spending longer at the OKC Renaissance Fair" than he expected to. I laugh along and pretend I'm not annoyed that though my drive was 45 minutes and his was only 10, I managed to arrive on time.

So, we get to talking. Well, *he* gets to talking, at least. He tells me stories about all the adventures he's had, including almost getting arrested multiple times in multiple states for sleeping in his

car. Telling a woman you've had warrants out for your arrest isn't exactly how you win her heart... especially when it's the first time you've met her.

By the end of the date I'm bored, annoyed he was late, and hungry; I had been sipping on this smoothie for a good two and a half hours. As we walk to my car, he pays me the only compliment I will receive for the night:

“Your toenail polish is a nice color. It looks great.”

It's safe to say I'll never see that man again. . . or do online dating.

Like I said earlier, online dating isn't a terrible experience 100% of the time. That being said, making a profile in hopes of finding a date for Valentine's Day may not be the best idea. Not all men and women online will solely compliment you on your toenails, but making an account just to fill your calendar's empty slot on February 14th might be worth thinking about twice.

Sources

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/02/02/key-findings-about-online-dating-in-the-u-s/>