

VALENTINE'S & BEYOND

With many looking to find that special someone to spend time with I decided it was time to come out about online dating!

Online dating is a wonderful adventure. Where else can you fill out a profile and then start connecting with people from the comfort of your home? No need to get gussied up or spend money heading out to clubs. All that is required is your computer, an internet connection and you are on your way! Online dating works well if you are older and have been out of the dating scene for more years than you care to admit.

I did try online dating and happened to find my wonderful partner in crime and love. When I set out on the online adventure, I viewed it as just that, an adventure. I was so glad I did! I was soon tuned into the different aspects of online dating and not all of them were, shall we say, wonderful, but they were eye opening and served to have me discover what I really wanted in a mate.

I really feel online dating sites are the way to go if you are seriously looking for a partner. First off you get to email back and forth to get to know them a bit. You can get a sense of their humor, and often their life history as people tend to be open from the other side of a computer. If the emailing seems to go well, I suggest setting up a coffee date. Do not worry that it might be too soon. Remember this is an adventure, one that you hope will facilitate finding your prince or princess. If you hang back and stay behind the computer, you will miss out on connecting with the energy of the person. Many people are not good with the new fangled internet-email-chat stuff and are much better at presenting their awesomeness in person.

My first advice is to keep it real. Be yourself, don't try to "fit" in with what they are looking for because their picture tingles you to your toes. Think of it this way, both sides of the computer are looking for their "match made in internet heaven." At the beginning of any relationship everyone is in what I like to call "being on our best behavior", it is easy to go along with whatever is coming our way. After 6 weeks or so, your natural self comes barging in like a freight train, as does the other persons, this is our comfort zone, our true self that responds without having to think first. We want to show our best selves and we do, yet that is not all we are.

Also, be prepared that the pictures people post might not be current! Or they might look better in person than their picture. Although with today's technology you can always video with the person on Skype or Facebook messenger, and should have a fairly good idea of what they really look like. They also might have fudged on the personal information form and could be years older than they lead you to believe. It happens! One lovely person told me they were 50 when in fact they were 67! YIKES! Imagine my surprise when we met for lunch. While they were very wonderful the age difference was just too big, on all levels! I was 43 at the time. Before you think I am age biased, I will tell you that the guy I finally did meet is twelve years older than me.

Which brings me to my next point, be prepared to be rejected. Hey, you are not going to like each individual you meet up with, and they are not going to like each individual they meet. Don't take being rejected as a bad thing. Instead, think of it as wanting the best possible outcome. Both parties are looking for a match that clicks on all levels, to accept anything less would be settling, not the best way to have any relationship. Let's face it to meet your prince or princess you might have to toss out a few

toads! Be as gentle and honest as possible when turning down another. Perhaps point out that you want the best for them and you are not that person. Wish them well in their search and carry on.

Have a positive attitude. If you think that people have agendas, are weird, are jerks, or are fake, then that is what you will attract. On the other hand, if you keep it light and look at it from the point of view of meeting new people who could be new friends, you will stand a better chance of meeting positive upbeat people. Finding a mate can be serious business if you are lonely, however keep it fun! Be in it for the long haul, after all you are selecting someone who you will want to spend time with, a long time with, the rest of your life.

Oh on that note... know yourself and be prepared that you might not know yourself as well as you thought. Many have a checklist of what they are looking for in a mate, but I suggest you toss it out! Yes, you heard me, toss it. We are not purchasing a new vehicle here; we are looking for a mate. If we start our search with a check list and expect to have each box checked, we are setting ourselves up for failure. Besides, if we have a check list we never see beyond it. What marvelous person are we not getting to know because they have facial hair and brown eyes when we want clean shaven, blue eyed hunks? Life is constantly changing and while we have ideals about who we are, and what we like, we have not tried or experienced everything. What we like and who we are today can be drastically different tomorrow.

Be prepared to have an exit planned when you meet in person, just in case there are no vibes whizzing through the air. Don't hang in there thinking it will get better if there is lots of awkward silence, but do ensure that you have made your best effort. Follow your gut! If it feels off, it probably is. A quick exit ensures that neither of you is wasting your energy on something that is going nowhere.

Also ensure you go "Dutch." For some reason there is still the "entitlement" aspect of having someone pay for your coffee or meal. Even in today's society, some still think if they pay for your meal they are paying for a trip to the boudoir. There is nothing wrong with wanting to have a few passionate kisses if you feel drawn, or even taking it further, but, the choice is up to both people and should not be an expectation because one of you paid for the evening.

Finally, don't expect that this person is going to change your life. Wouldn't you rather they enhanced your life? You probably have been supporting yourself, have a close group of friends, and basically your life is perfect, but you would like a mate. Someone to **share** your life with. Remember that, when you are on this adventure. The life you have now will change somewhat, but the foundation should stay the same. Love yourself and your current lifestyle enough to know that you are not forsaking your life, but rather both parties are merging two terrific lives into one.

Love is a many splendored thing, opposites attract, and hearts do get broken. Yet no matter what happens on the adventure, you will create some memories that will last a lifetime. Some you might want to forget, but eventually you will find your mate. Each person out there, if they want, has a special someone, timing is everything. If you are looking for companionship, which looks like love, take the chance on online dating. For me it was fun and led me to the right person, 9 happy years and counting!

Namaste

Marlene Cobb

Copyright (c) 2016 by Marlene Cobb. All rights reserved. You may quote, copy, translate and link to this article, in its entirety, on free, non-donation based websites only, as long as you include the author name and a working link to www.merrlina.com . All other uses are strictly prohibited.