

Writing to attract your lover or soulmate through online dating.

Love, Lies, and Hiking - Online Dating after 50

by Pete Panapoulus

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ISBN: 978-1-63491-965-4

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

NON-FICTION

The names and other identifying information in this book have been changed to protect the identity of the people involved.

Printed on acid-free paper.

Booklocker.com, Inc.

2017

First Edition

“Wow. I must say, as a 50-year-old single guy in LA, my experience has been dead on just as you described!!! This is a good read, insightful with good, valuable, and useful information. I especially was moved by the excerpt about ‘pig heart’. That was really enlightening for me.”

~ Roy, Los Angeles

Dedicated to my brother,
and all the lonely hearts...

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1

Benefits of Online Dating

Who single among us in the dating world does not want to find love? Dating has changed in the last generation and the internet may be the biggest change of them all with Online Dating. With the immediacy and volume of options like never before, one would think dating would be easier. Like personal ads before online dating, we scoured the pages, and now images, in hopes of finding our soul mate. Perhaps the personal ads were actually more personal in delivery. Consider, you had to actually pick up a pen or sit at a typewriter and write a note of interest to someone who caught your attention cerebrally through words with no pictures. A person receiving a handwritten or typed letter understands and holds the letter you have written, therefore more consideration goes into your acceptance or rejection of the correspondence. As we

become more consumed by our electronic devices, we spend less time interacting with other humans. Now we can see volumes of people with their pictures attached and easily discard the profile with no more thought than it takes to close a door. In some ways, dating is more difficult today than in the past which seems counterintuitive, but that is a book for sociologists.

The reason for this book came from many conversations with family and friends. Some of whom already have long lasting relationships and have never had to search online to find a date. Others found online dating daunting. Initially some were shocked that someone like me has to resort to this kind of courtship to meet someone. Horrifying, I know. Do not run from internet dating sites; embrace the adventure. It is the new medium for romance. You can always take a break anytime you want and return without reason.

In my conversations, the common thread of frustration lie in two areas; the profile, and the initial contact. Many falsely believe that they do not have the skill to write an appealing profile. My brother and I entered into a conversation about writing a profile and that's when it hit me. I can help others write their

profile and help them find love. In the end, it makes the world a better place.

This was my first inspiration when I considered writing this book. My brother, a good looking middle-aged man was struggling, along with me to find love, however for different reasons. His first struggle was that he felt he could not write an appealing profile.

I had written more than a couple film scripts, short stories, and a manuscript, so writing came easier to me. Even if I was/am not good at it. I've never sold any of my writing efforts. However, I really do believe anyone can write creatively if they take the time to sit steady, breathe deeply, and listen to them self. Everyone has an imagination! It is also kind of like meditating as your thoughts flow through you.

From my conversations, I found, that for some, the most difficult part of online dating is writing the first word after finding someone's picture you are attracted to. I usually start with "hello". It is time tested, non-offensive, and has a proven track record. "Hello, my name is... I find your profile interesting and like..." here's where we start.

You see a picture, hopefully you'll read what the person has to say about themselves and their interests

in their profile. It is very important to read the profiles. This is where you can find a kernel of interest for an opening statement/question or something you like that is not visible in their profile picture.

It's always best to start with a question; it opens the door for a response. It's better than say, "Hello, I like your profile". That makes it too easy for the recipient to disregard or shows a lack of interest on the sender's part. It can also look like you're trolling the site dropping "hello bombs" playing a numbers game.

People pick up on this sort of thing quickly and it is of no use in pursuing long term relationships. Which I believe would be the reason you are on the dating site. And the same tool that provides the luxury of online dating, the computer, is the same tool that allow us to easily disconnect from people.

We've already begun the lessons that can be learned but this is not a lesson manual. This book contains many inquiries to women I've contacted, or who have contacted me over the years. This may make me sound like a serial dater which is far from the case. In my situation, like many others, work is the primary objective of my existence. To be successful means you will work overtime. Face it, today, that can mean more than 80 hours a week for some. After the stress of running a business, who has time to meet anyone?

Most of my past relationships in my adult life have all come from work environments. When you are in management or in charge of the employees as I am today, it can be a very slippery slope to date a subordinate. Sexual Harassment lawsuit anyone? So, work takes precedence at the expense of my personal life. However, there must be a balance. All work and no play makes Pete a very dull man!

I, too want a relationship. But I also live in Los Angeles, CA, and I think this warrants a special mention because it really is a unique place when it comes to people and dating. Every location is distinct unto itself but if you have ever lived in beautiful Los Angeles, CA, you may understand the singular qualities in the people of whom I describe.

We're special. Not in a gifted sort of way, but in a detached, self-preservation, seeking my dreams at all others expense sort of way. After all, I have heard the hopefulness and banality of the people described in this one sentence of this gorgeous city and its carpetbaggers. Not my quote:

"This is the place where all prom queens and football heroes come to achieve the mundane, driven by their lack of talent or self-awareness."

I ain't no different.

My other favorite quote about dating in Los Angeles, again not mine, is, *“Everybody’s lookin’ to trade up”*. I must say I’ve seen it happen by both genders but it was never more obvious than when I got my first bar tending job in L.A. Either this person had a ravenous appetite to love, or they were social climbing for their career. I will go with the latter, since one of the liaisons eventually led to a minor non-speaking roll. They finally made it on a television show. All that for one scene in a canceled cable show. I have never seen them work again. Admittedly, I don’t watch that much television so it could be I keep missing them.

With that explanation, out of the way, that does not mean I will settle and neither should you. I have seen many broken relationships by those who settled on someone rather than finding the most ideal person. Just like everything that is successful, it takes work, time, and dedication to maintain a relationship. And should be approached with all due seriousness. The benefit of online dating is there are many sites with tens of thousands of people just like you to choose from. If a date does not work out, move on to the next!

Feel free to use any portion(s) of the profiles or initial inquiries in this book as, if it were, your writing. These are my real-life experiences for your use.

At first, when it came to online dating, it was difficult to share with my friends and family that I was online looking for love on the internet. It reminded me of the mail order bride ads I used to see as a kid. I thought of the subscribers as desperate old men. Here I am, and internet dating initially felt sort of the same. Could be my Catholic guilt. I should have met a nice girl in high school, got married, had a couple kids, and lived happily(?) ever after. My hope is, I help shave time off your learning curve and help you avoid the many pitfalls along the way in online dating.

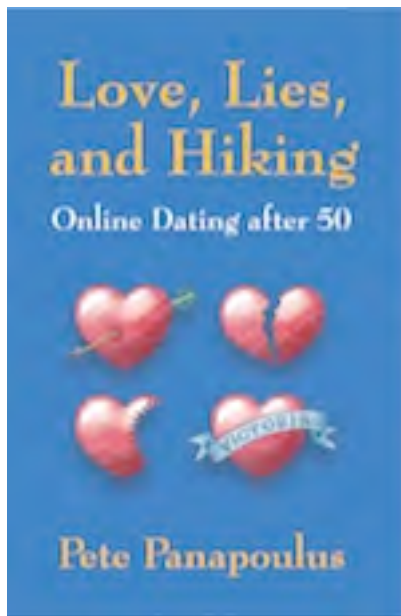
I have been fortunate and have met many women over the years through online dating. It took a long time to perfect my profile and approach, but, now my inbox is busier than ever before. How did I do it? The answers are in your hands. As I continue my search for that elusive love, I am grateful that mankind's newest technological advances in modern science since the steam engine is here to help. This may not be exactly the avenue I'd like to meet a woman, I have not and may not found what I'm looking for, but I've met many nice women and continue to enjoy dating... when I have time for it.

Finally, one more thing I'd like to say regarding gender. We all want to be loved but I can only write my perspective, from a male gender point of view. I am not picking on any one gender my only point is to

state that dating is difficult from either gender's perspective, regardless of sexual orientation or there wouldn't be a whole section of self-help books on this topic.

This book is meant to help middle-aged people enhance their creative writing for dating with the end result of meeting someone they believe they would like to date.

The composite profile in chapter 3; include slight variations of the women's own words, the profile they wrote and the descriptions of potential suitors they seek, are meant to be humorous and tongue in cheek. I could have missed the boat. However, I also think both genders can gain a great deal of insight from this writing. Perhaps it may help some women edit their profile and pull back from the grandiose statements or conversely give her confidence to enhance her profile. But in the end, this book is here to help you write that perfect profile and remove the struggle of the initial contact; to help you meet that special someone, maybe even your soul mate!



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