

# 7 Ways to Flirt In a Web 2.0 World



By Jessica Smith

The World Wide Web offers us an unending sea of possibilities, and people aren't hesitating to take advantage of the dating scene that the Internet has to offer. Many of us lead busy and hectic lives, and it can seem impossible to meet someone worth dating on your own, so the convenience of dating sites can make finding "the one" easier. Of course, you can flirt with people online by sending smiley faces or winks, but all body language and human contact is lost. That said, even though you may not be able to charm your possible love interest physically, here are some ways to flirt online while simultaneously keeping your cool:

**1. Wit and humor:** The easiest way to break the ice is by making people laugh. If you can make someone break out into a fit of laughter or bring a smile to their face, you've already caught their interest and they're going to feel more comfortable to be themselves around you. The sooner the tension is broken, the sooner you'll be going out on real dates.

**2. Step by step:** When you're chatting online instead of in person, it's easy to reveal information you wouldn't normally be ready to reveal if you were face-to-face. Take things just as slow as you would if you were meeting in person. This will keep a little mystery alive in the relationship and keep them coming back for more.

**3. Honesty:** When you're communicating over the Internet, you can be whoever you want to be and say whatever you want to say. Your partner will be analyzing you the best he or she can, but if they find out later that you were dishonest, you've ruined your chance at love. Being truthful is a key ingredient to a successful relationship, so start it off right.

**4. Friendship:** Become friends before lovers. Get to know each other as much as you can virtually before you meet each other physically. You'll feel like you've known the person forever if you've both been honest with each other. This way, you already have an emotional attachment and all that's left is the physical attraction.

**5. Play hard to get:** The Internet is all around us. We have it at work, at home and even on our phones. That means you're available almost 24/7 to interact online. Play hard to get! Don't respond right away, or don't respond all day. The person on the other end will be checking their chat or email constantly to see if you've responded, and once you finally do, you'll have them hooked.

**6. Compliments:** Handing out compliments is an art. Over the web, you have to compliment each other without sounding creepy, and say something that will receive a positive response. You're probably not going to be the first guy or girl to tell them they're beautiful or handsome, so be creative. A well thought out and personalized compliment will lead to infatuation and potentially more conversation.

**7. Confidence:** Being confident without being cocky is a turn on. We all want someone who is sure of who they are and is always willing to be themselves in any situation. Don't pretend to be someone else, because more than likely your date will be able to see through that when you meet in person. If you can exude as much confidence as you do online in person, you just might seal the deal.

**What steps did you take to meet your partner while online dating? Share your comments below.**

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## **How to Deal with Online Dating Rejection**





By Debbie Lamedman

When you're dating online, you never know to whom you're talking. It's a voice in the dark. All you see is someone's profile and a picture, and if you contact them and there's no response, you move on. It's a rejection, but there's no reason to take it personally. How can you when the person you've attempted to contact doesn't even know you? Well, that's easier said than done.

Britney Spears recently got engaged again, this time to Jason Trawick. You can bet that she dealt with rejection upon the termination of all of her previous relationships, but she is persevering. People get rejected right and left, especially when they date online. If you start to let it get to you, it will take a toll. It becomes more difficult when you've actually made contact with the person and suddenly that contact between you ceases. This happens often, and there is logical reason for it. You can make up stories about why the person stopped returning your emails after many lively conversations, but you will never know the real reason unless they reappear in your inbox. You never know what's going on

in someone else's life, and you never know what someone's motivation is for starting to date online. That said, there are definitely ways to deal with rejection.

Unfortunately, we saw Spears' downfall and witnessed her reactions to rejection from many people in her life. To avoid crashing into depression, you must learn to maintain a certain level of detachment while your online relationship evolves.

This may sound harsh, but people take off as often as they stick around, so protect yourself, your heart and your self-esteem.

No one likes feeling rejected. If you've never met your date in person, you can't take their rejection personally.

Unfortunately, people tend to judge others for the smallest things. If it was something about the way you looked in your photo, or something you said in your profile that turned the other person off, so be it. You can't please everyone.

**Related:** [Julie Spira Discusses 'The Perils of Cyber-Dating'](#)

Take online dating rejection lightly, and move on. After all, there are plenty more matches where they came from. People you meet online will fall by the wayside, leaving you with the room and opportunity to meet quality people who deserve your time and attention. If you've met your online date in person and things don't work out, there's no reason to take that to heart either. Just go back online, and keep hunting!

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## HowAboutWe.com: Two Dates for

# the Price of One



*This post is sponsored by [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com).*

By Amy Calhoun

When I received the opportunity to try out [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com), I was a bit skeptical. But only a few days after posting my profile, I started to receive interest from men in my inbox. Most of the members who messaged me used a feature called, 'I'm Intrigued.' It was flattering to be 'intrigued' by people but nothing more really came of it. After a while, it felt like a cop-out and the connections began to feel sterile and less intimate.

One of the main features of [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) is that you can post on your profile the type of date you wish to have with someone. I played around with a few different date ideas

including a simple one about going out for Sushi. After my second week on the site, a message came in my inbox that made my heart skip a beat. The note was personal and created especially for me by a guy named Eric. After messaging back and forth a few times, we exchanged phone numbers. Keeping my expectations low, so as not to get my hopes smashed to little pieces, I put Eric in the back of my mind. To my surprise, a couple of days later, he contacted me and asked me out to lunch. We set a date, time and place and I secretly counted down the days.

Once the day of our date arrived, I woke up feeling a little bit different. I could not explain why but the process of picking out my outfit, putting on my make-up and anticipating what the afternoon was going to hold for me, shook me up a little bit inside. As I drove to the restaurant, thoughts kept swirling around in my head. What if this guy is a total dud? What if he looks nothing like he does in his photos online? Deep breaths, Amy.

It had been a while since I had gone on a date and I was feeling a bit nervous. I walked up to the restaurant, pulled open the door and walked in. He had told me he was sitting on the left side of the restaurant and when I saw him I felt a wave of relief; he looked even better than his photos! We decided what kind of sushi we were going to get and each ordered a roll that the other one had never tried before; I was determined to make him a believer of eel avocado. After chowing down all of our sushi and exchanging our "saved" stories (another feature exclusive to HowAboutWe.com), we realized that the waiters were giving us dirty looks. What had started as a lunch date was now overlapping into dinner. He had picked up the check an hour ago but we couldn't stop talking. We finally left and said our goodbyes. It was an amazing first date. That evening Eric texted me for a second date for that very same week.

I want to take this time out to thank HowAboutWe.com. Prior

to signing up for this site, I felt that I had lost my ability to date. I was having absolutely no luck meeting guys. If nothing else, HowAboutWe.com gave me the confidence to hold my head up high and get back into my groove again.

Since writing this post, Eric and I did go on our second date and this week we are onto our third. For anyone who was ever skeptical about online dating, this really can work. And now, [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) is offering a One Month FREE TRIAL. Simply use this discount code: 'FallDating'. Take it from me, you don't want to miss out on a potential opportunity.

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## A Refreshing New Approach to Online Dating with HowAboutWe.com







*This post is sponsored by [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com)*

By Amy Calhoun

### **My Lucky Break**

A few weeks ago, I was given the opportunity to try out the new dating site, [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com). My experience in the online dating world isn't all that extensive, I've registered for a few sites in the past but didn't have much luck. So, when the opportunity came my way to try out [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com), I was excited to explore a new option but didn't hold much hope that it would be successful.

### **More Than a Profile and Picture**

Instead of being excited, I procrastinated at the thought of filling out another boring profile and digging up a photo that made me look universally appealing. But, from the moment I began the process on [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) I realized that this wasn't just another online dating site. This site was fun, unique and less pressured than the others. The site focuses on the date, not the dater. This concept attracts like-minded

folks who have something in common (aka: a reason to connect). I love the idea that you're not judging a person just by a photo and picture.

### **Simple, Fun and Exciting to Join**

To sign-up was so easy. All that I had to do was note my preference of gender, age range and location. To create my profile, I uploaded a photo (which you can even do with the help of your Facebook account!) and answered a list of questions. The cool thing was that they weren't the lame, ordinary questions that other sites use, such as 'Do you want children in the future?' or 'What is your body type?' These questions were interesting like, "What do you secretly want to be?" and 'What movie have you watched the most times?'

The questions seemed odd at first but then I got to thinking, "If I could find a guy who loves spicy brown mustard as much as I do, it would be totally worth it!" After amusing myself with the process, the real fun began! I started posting date ideas surrounding activities that I really wanted to do.

HowAboutWe.. go rock climbing? Or, HowAboutWe...shop for Halloween costumes together? HowAboutWe...take a helicopter around Manhattan? The sky is the limit (pun intended).

### **New Date Ideas = New People**

What I love the most about the site is that my profile is always fresh and exciting. If it's raining outside and I want to stay local, I can look for another dater who feels the same. When I'm feeling adventurous, I can find rock climbing partners or someone who wants to go running. Because new date ideas are revised so often, it's easy to find new people with common interests to mine. Right now, my profile says, HowAboutWe..go out for Sushi. As benign as that may sound, it worked and I have a date planned this week.

So for now, HowAboutWe...See What Happens.

## Special Discount

[HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) is offering a One Month FREE TRIAL for those who want to get back into the online dating game. Simply use this discount code: 'FallDating'. Take it from me, you really do not want to miss out on this opportunity!

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# New Dating Apps to Manage Your Love Life



By Rebecca VanderMeulen, GalTime.com

Is your smartphone the first thing to greet you in the morning and the last thing you see at night?

“If you’re a power user of your smartphone, you should definitely use it in your dating life,” says Laurie Davis, founder of online dating consultant eFlirt Expert. Given how indispensable mobile apps are these days, it’s no surprise that there are tons of applications to help you find a dating partner and plan a rendezvous. Pretty much every dating site has its own mobile app, Davis says. Besides that, you can download apps designed just to manage your dating life. “More people are spending time on their smartphones,” author and online dating expert Julie Spira tells us. “Mobile dating apps make it more convenient to meet someone while you’re on the go and are rapidly growing in popularity.”

Our experts say there are so many to choose from, but here are some of the newest choices:

## **HowAboutWe**

Instead of scrolling through ubiquitous profiles of singles who like baseball and long walks on the beach, why not vet them based on what they suggest doing for fun? Spira says this app does just that. Here’s how it works: Post “How about we ...” and use your imagination to complete the sentence. Recent examples include, “How about we sit on a park bench and make up conversations for the people we see?” and, “How about we go see a band that neither of us has heard of?” Someone nearby post something that sounds fun? Send a message. That’s it! HowAboutWe’s iPhone app, launched in June, integrates with Foursquare – useful if you’re looking for a happy hour nearby.

## **Bizzy**

Looking for a new place to take that guy you met online? Davis advises checking out Bizzy, a new app (in Beta) available for Android and Apple devices. Like Foursquare, you check into that new coffee shop down the street and rate it. But Bizzy takes things one step further by asking you for your

favorite places – like your thoughts on the best food truck, best live music and best salon. The app recommends places you might like based on your answers to these questions, ratings of places you've checked out before and preferences of people who share your taste.

## **PinPointsX**

Spira says this is the app for when you're looking for a hookup. It shows you other members who live nearby, displaying information like their names, ages, height and weight. Of course you can also make a profile complete with a photo and brief, tantalizing bio. Find someone who looks like fun and you can send a message or give him a call. PinPointsX lets you search for men, women and couples. Plus, the app helps you find bars and hotels once you figure out who you want to meet. PinPointsX is available for Apple devices and in the Android Market.

## **DatingCRM**

Ever meet John during happy hour at that funky dive bar, only to confuse him with Jake from the hot club you checked out last weekend? Then you may want to check out DatingCRM, an app that keeps notes on all the potential dates you meet. While a new guy thinks you're texting, store tidbits about where you met, his favorite beer and what he does for a living. "It's like a digital black book," Davis says. Right now DatingCRM is only available in its private beta version since the developers are still working on the details. But this means you have a chance to give them feedback.

**Got any others we should know about? Let us know your tip on managing your love life ... we want to hear from you!**

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# Clicking to Find Love



By Lisa Becker

I used to be a little embarrassed to tell others that I used an online dating service. Much like the heroine of my novel, *Click: An Online Love Story*, I needed some coaxing before I could embrace the experience. But, the more I talked about it, the more I found out that friends and family had met their significant others the exact same way; in fact, according to a 2010 survey, one in five new relationships starts online.

Online dating is a useful tool for young professionals who are busy working and finding it difficult to make the right connection at the gym, bar, coffee shop or grocery aisle. It's also a great avenue for meeting new people in a relaxed, on-your-own-terms way. People today are married to their cell phones and laptops, so why not use that technology to get

hitched while you're at it, right?

After my now-husband and I met online, I was recalling some of the hilarious encounters that I had during the whole online dating experience. How could I forget the guy who started every story (no joke!) with "My buddies and I were out drinking one night." I decided to capture some of them in writing and, from there and based loosely on my own experiences, my novel emerged. My book is comprised solely of emails exchanged between friends, dates, and romantic prospects as the story of online dating unfolds. This format felt like a modern way to tell my story that fit the topic, and allowed readers to develop an intimate relationship with the characters along the way.

Now that I'm considered an online dating success story (eight years of marriage in Los Angeles is apparently no small feat!), I'm often asked what advice I would give to singletons out there... particularly those who are approaching an age where they thought they would be married. My advice, whether you're 18, 41 or 73, is to concentrate on being a complete and fulfilled person on your own. Take the trip to Europe you've always dreamed of, sign up for ballroom dancing classes, or like the heroine of my book, continue to develop life-long bonds with your best friends.

Bottom line: pursue your own passions, because when you are happy and secure in your own life, you will be much more attractive to someone else.

Hungry for more? To purchase *Click*, visit Amazon. To follow updates on *Click* and share your stories about online dating, visit the *Click* Facebook fan page.

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# How About We...Find a Date This Spring



After spending three months bundled up inside the house and sitting in front of the fireplace, why wouldn't you be thrilled when spring finally arrives? The best part about this time of the year isn't just the warm weather or the endless places to visit – there's tons of new people spending time outdoors. If you're lucky, maybe you'll find The One while soaking up the sun's rays.

Since it can be difficult to find a date, [HowAboutWe.com](https://www.howaboutwe.com) suggests these five easy tips to successfully land a date this spring:

**1. Ladies, ask guys out:** Men and women are asking one another



out at equal rates, and in fact, ladies are at a slight advantage. Dates proposed by women get an average of 5.8 responses each, while men get about 5.5. Gals, the odds are in your favor, so use 'em to your advantage!

**2. Be specific:** Dates that involve doing a particular, such as eating at a *specific* restaurant or doing a *specific* activity, are 40 percent more successful than ambiguous date ideas. Here's an example: "How about we try and complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle while sampling one of Gorilla Coffee's famous maple lattes?" See – easy!

**3. Plan ahead:** Wednesday is the best day to ask someone out on a date. The worst day to propose a date? Sunday.

**4. Keep it short:** A date idea that gets communicated in 120-140 characters is ideal, so keep it to the length of a tweet.

**5. Two-part dates have the most success:** Sixty percent of the most responded-to dates are two-fold: a short, active first part followed by a more intimate second location. Here's an example: "How about we practice our swings at the driving range then get some slices at my favorite brick-oven pizza joint – it's just a few blocks away."

[HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) is a dating site that focuses on helping members find a compatible mate by getting them away from a computer screen and actually going on a date. Unlike other online dating sites, where you find potential partners by looking through someone's profile, [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) allows you to suggest an ideal date and connect with those who share your interest. If you don't have a preference, then scroll through a list of dates suggested by others and see which of them fit you best. You can invent dates or browse them, then ask people out, going on the types of dates that match your interests.

*Are you interested in giving the site a try? [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com)*

is offering our readers a **SPECIAL DISCOUNT of 33% OFF** their service! Use promo code **SpringFun**. For more information, visit their [Facebook page](#) and follow them on Twitter: [@howaboutwe](#).

*This post was sponsored by HowAboutWe.com.*

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## Cavanaugh Lee Talks 'Save as Draft'



By Erika Mioni

In today's fast-paced world, more and more people rely on

technology. Fortunately (or unfortunately), relationships are also caught up in cyberspace. Cavanaugh Lee's *Save as Draft* tackles love's latest hurdle – the Internet. Protagonist Izabell Chin is an actress-turned-lawyer struggling to find true love. She soon finds two love interests: Peter, from her law firm, and Marty, from eHarmony. As her relationships with each guy take their course, the reader is privy to an in-depth look at the e-mails and text messages that were never sent. Too honest to reveal, those messages were saved as a draft. As Izabell's relationships slowly fall apart, the reader is able to understand that though e-mail, texting and online ventures are nearly inescapable during these modern times, it is important to remain honest and always say what needs to be said.

We had a chance to talk to Lee about her past technology-related experiences and her motivation for writing the novel. Here's what the author had to say:

### **What inspired you to write *Save as Draft*?**

I wrote SAVE AS DRAFT ("SAD") in the aftermath of a breakup. Actually, it was a little bit more than just a "breakup" – it was an engagement to be married. Rough, I know. Anyway, while I was mourning the loss of my relationship, I went back and read through all of my old emails to and from my ex. I noticed that there were tons of emails in my Inbox, dating back two years, proving that we had conducted our entire relationship online (even though we actually lived together for a good portion of that time!). I also noticed there were a ton of unsent emails in my Draft folder. At that point, I polled my friends about their own Draft folders. Turns out, we all seem to have a hard time sending the "honest" emails, and save them as draft instead (or delete them altogether). That was when I started writing the book..

**Throughout the novel, you included a lot of input from Izabell's friends. How important are friends when deciding on a love interest?**

Very (even if we won't admit it). By nature, we long for approval from our friends. If they don't like someone we're dating, we subconsciously start to wonder why... I mean, our close friends know us better than anyone (save for our parents) so if they disapprove, then they must have a valid reason for it. A best friend's disapproval can be the end-game for a budding new relationship. Of course, friends often don't tell us they don't like our beau until it is O.V.E.R.

**Do you feel that new technology (e-mail, Facebook, eHarmony, etc.) has harmed or helped people in their efforts to find love?**

A little of both. All of the new technology has made it easier to communicate, but it has also made it easier for us to say absolutely nothing if we chose to. Explanation: we can spend all day "communicating on-line," but our emails may lack substance and honesty upon closer examination. Email has given us the ability to edit and fabricate ourselves upon the stroke of a key. That is not going to benefit any attempts to find love. However, if we use email to express ourselves fully, then we're on the right electronic track and it'll be a lot easier to discover a genuine connection (as opposed to just a wireless one).

**Why do you feel that saving messages as drafts is so common?**

Because we are scared to send an honest email, especially when said email may deal with "feelings." Think about it. How difficult is it to email: "I love you." Or, "I'm scared." Or, "I don't want to date you anymore." Or, "I think we should go slow." Or... the hardest one of all, "Do you like me?" We're scared of the response we may get. We immediately hit "pause, rewind, reevaluate," and then "save as draft." We

think to ourselves, “It’s much easier to simply be witty and disingenuous” – we send that email instead.

**What’s the most valuable advice you have learned from your past relationships?**

When it comes to in-person and online, say what you mean, and mean what you say. Don’t edit. Just hit send instead.

**How much of your own past experience went into the creation of the novel?**

SAD is loosely based on real life events. I was engaged. Then I was unengaged. I started dating someone else almost immediately. That didn’t work out either. That is the basic plot line of the book. Interspersed in between everything, I had to imagine how the men felt, what they went through. That is obviously fiction as I don’t live inside their minds. What I experienced from my end, however, is the “loosely based on real life events” part.

**What do you hope people take away from your novel?**

I hope people can learn from my mistakes. I hope I’ve provided some tidbits on this thing called “love.” Most of all, though, I hope the readers enjoy the book and that I’ve provided a fun heartfelt read for a few moments out of their otherwise crazy, high-tech lives!

Cupid thanks Lee for her time! You can find *Save as Draft* on Amazon. For more on the author, you can visit her website at [www.CavanaughLee.com](http://www.CavanaughLee.com).

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# 'How About' Giving Online Dating One Last Try?



By Jenna Barbieri

Some people spend [Valentine's Day](#) doing extravagant things with their loved ones, while others spend it alone in front of their computers. Does the latter sound like you? Well, what would you do if I told you that this year, sitting in front of the computer might actually be the start to your ideal Valentine's Day? Would you think I was lying? Yeah, so would I. Which is why I did some research after hearing all the hype about [HowAboutWe.com](#).

Before I say anything else, let me point out that HowAboutWe is a dating site ... but it's not actually a dating site. Most people are hesitant to attempt online dating, but the only

part of the actual dating that takes place on this site is the proposal. According to their homepage, "It's a site all about dates – inventing dates, scrolling through dates, asking people out and going on the dates you really want to go on."

It's no secret that connecting online has become an ideal dating option, which is why there are thousands of dating sites already out there. What separates HowAboutWe from the rest is the wait time (or lack thereof). HAW is straight to the point: What's your ideal date? Have you always wanted to go sky diving over beautiful scenery while holding hands with a significant other? Type it in and instantly connect with those who share your interest – it doesn't get easier than that. In the meantime, look through your own date proposals until you find one right for you.

Once someone accepts your dating proposal or vice versa, the rest is natural. The type of date itself already tells you a lot about the person, and you're immediately thrown into an activity you both enjoy. If the date lacks that special spark, take comfort that you've found a friend who shares similar interests as you, all while continuing to date other people who also share your hobbies until you find the person that's right for you. Who *wouldn't* want to be asked out on a regular basis?

So instead of spending Valentine's Day alone, How About YOU take a chance on HowAboutWe? It's more than just a great way to meet people; it's a great way to meet the right people.

*Interested in giving it a try? [HowAboutWe.com](http://HowAboutWe.com) is offering our readers a **SPECIAL DISCOUNT of 33% OFF** their service, just in time for Valentine's Day! Use promo code VDAYFUN. For more information, visit their Facebook page and follow them on Twitter: @howaboutwe.*

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# Valentine's Day Special: How to Have an Irresistible Online Dating Profile



By Julie Spira, online dating expert and the bestselling author of *The Perils of Cyber-Dating*

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February may be the shortest month of the year, but for those anticipating [Valentine's Day](#), it's critical to ramp up your online dating search. There's no quicker way to find a date on the Internet than by starting with a cyber face-lift of your



existing dating profile.

With more than 116 million members worldwide viewing online dating sites, the odds are in your favor that you'll be able to snag a date by Valentine's Day with these tips:

**1. The Lady in Red:** Everyone knows that red is synonymous with love and passion. We're reminded about Valentine's Day as soon as New Year's is over. I always say the color red will attract a man. Grab a friend and your digital camera and start snapping some photos wearing your favorite red dress or sweater to grab his attention. Post three to five photos: one full-length shot, one close up and an activity or vacation shot. Not sure what to use? Check out your own Facebook profile and scan through your photos. There might be one on your favorite social networking site to post on your online dating profile.

**2. Create a Catchy Screen Name:** When I create irresistible online dating profiles for singles, I'm always amazed at how many singles just use the screen name assigned by Match.com, eHarmony, or on the free online dating site. There's nothing catchy about it at all. Think about a newspaper with a great headline and an interesting photo. If it captures your attention, you're more than likely to skim or read through the article. The same theory holds true for online dating. It's a competitive digital landscape out there – Suzy115279 isn't going to impress him, but ArtLover4U or HikingGal will show him what your interests are. This will make it easier for him to approach you.

**3. Change your Settings:** Typically, women like it when a man does the pursuing, but February is already here. You need to let him know you're available and ready to meet. How do you do this? Change your privacy settings to show you're online and open up your live chat or instant messaging service. Online dating is a numbers game and men are rejected all too

often. Make it easy for him to find you. It's a crowded digital landscape and the squeaky wheel *does* get the deal.

**4. Shorten your Profile:** There's so much to say and so little time, but time is your friend. Don't tell your entire life story in your profile, or there's no reason for him to contact you. Shorten your profile to a simple paragraph with enough information to pique his curiosity.

**5. Cast a Wide Net:** So what if he doesn't look like your dream guy? If you have enough common interests, take a chance and accept a date. You never know if a great friendship will develop or if he'll have a friend to introduce you to, even if it's not a love connection. Women *do* fall in love with their best friends, so don't be too quick to judge the book by its digital cover.

*Julie Spira is known worldwide as The Cyber-Dating Expert. She's the author of the bestseller, The Perils of Cyber-Dating: Confessions of a Hopeful Romantic Looking for Love Online. Julie creates irresistible online dating profiles for singles on the dating scene. Follow her on Twitter: @JulieSpira. Like her at Facebook.com/CyberDatingExpert.*

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## When Strangers Click – HBO's Take on Online Dating





By Jennifer Harrington

With love on everyone's mind on [Valentine's Day](#), it's no surprise that HBO chose Feb. 14 to premiere a documentary chronicling the new avenue to find love in the 21st century – online dating. *When Strangers Click: Five Stories From the Internet* tells the stories of individuals who have explored Internet dating.

### [Trailer](#)

Knowing the documentary would premiere on Cupid's big day, our friends at Single Edition invited us to an advanced screening in New York City, which featured a Q&A with Robert Kenner of the Oscar-nominated *Food, Inc.*, who both directed and produced the film. The audience included 12 to 15 dating and relationship bloggers based in the city.

For anybody who has ventured into online romance – or for those who are just curious about discovering love on the web – *When Strangers Click* is worth checking out. This movie both resonates with and intrigues viewers, resulting in a very entertaining one-hour special.

From the woman who cried on her 30th birthday because she was convinced she would spend the rest of her life alone (but later found love online), to the New Jersey woman who married a Prague-based man who spoke virtually no English simply because she felt the indescribable “click” with him, it’s easy to become emotionally invested in these real stories of love. More shocking is the tale of a Swedish man who created an avatar on Second Life, an online virtual world: he forged a relationship with a woman he met through the site, went on to father her child, and the two continued their virtual (and real-life) romance.

During the Q&A, many bloggers noted that the documentary felt a bit “dated,” as it mentioned AOL and chat rooms. A few bloggers also said that the film reinforced negative stereotypes about online dating (one said that the people profiled seemed to be “on the fringe” of society), which were more prevalent 10 years ago, but aren’t now. However, they appreciated that Kenner picked a variety of different stories to tell and that not all of the stories had a happy ending. In fact, he mentioned that he is looking for more stories to potentially do another segment.

While surprising, this extreme quest for love makes viewers question how far they would go to find their own soul mate in a world increasingly dominated by social media. With more people than ever venturing into the world of online dating, this movie is sure to spark dialogue about dating virtually.

Don’t forget to catch *When Strangers Click* on **Monday, Feb. 14 at 9 PM ET** on **HB02**.

For more videos from *CupidsPulse.com*, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

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# Is Your Dating Profile A Movie Trailer or a Cereal Box?



I've read a metric bazillion dating profiles in my time as an online dating coach and about 90% are yawn-worthy. Do you think you're part of the other 10%? Think again.

Most people write a dating profile that reads a bit like a cereal box. Have you seen the following claims on a dating profile (maybe yours)?

## The Cereal Box Dating Profile

**Healthy:** "I like to take care of my body and you should, too."

**Balanced:** "I love to get dressed for a night out or wear PJs

for a movie at home.”

**Wholesome:** “Family is really important to me. I don’t know what I’d do without the support and love of my parents and siblings.”

**Mom-approved:** “Best of all, your parents will love me.”

Sure, these are all things that you might value in a date, but we eat cereal every day. It’s not exciting. It’s not unique. It’s not interesting. It’s just... okay. Pair a cereal box profile with photos of a regular Joe (or Jane), and what do you get? Not a whole lot of emails from potential dates, that’s what!

## **Learn A Lesson From The Movies**

The film industry knows what they’re doing. How many times have you seen a trailer and been totally psyched to see the movie? It has your favorite actor, it’s based on your favorite novel or it has lots of explosions. You know in a minute or three whether or not it’s a movie you’d be interested in seeing.

Previews work by showing you snippets of the best parts of the movie. You meet the protagonist, and you get a preview of their story. If it’s going to be a funny movie, there are some quick quips. If it’s going to be a summer blockbuster, there are cars exploding and people leaping away just in the nick of time.

## **What’s Your Trailer?**

Your life may not seem as exciting as a summer blockbuster (and I certainly hope there are fewer explosions!), but it’s interesting and unique. Think about the little things that make you who you are, and write those into your dating profile.

Even little things give a glimpse of your character. When I

was dating, my profile described me riding my shopping cart across the parking lot at Publix supermarket (you're never too old!). Many of the emails I got from men referenced that part of my profile as a reason why they emailed me.

Take your Cereal Box Claims and beef them up with specifics:

**Old:** "I like to take care of my body and you should, too."

**New:** "I'm not sure what I like most about my morning run – the heart-pumping exercise or the heart-stoppingly beautiful sunrises."

**Old:** "I love to get dressed for a night out or wear PJs for a movie at home."

**New:** "My best friend knows me better than anyone else. For my birthday last month, she got me tickets to the opera and a new pair of fuzzy bunny slippers."

**Old:** "Family is really important to me. I don't know what I'd do without the support and love of my parents and siblings."

**New:** "Now that we're adults, my sister and I are best friends. It might also help that our closets are 300 miles apart – she always stole my favorite clothes!"

## **A Movie Trailer Profile Always Does Its Job**

Not every movie trailer is going to thrill you and make you mark opening day on your calendar. If you re-write your dating profile ([or have my staff do it for you](#)), it's not going to magically attract every single on your dating site.

And it shouldn't.

If your dating profile is written like a good trailer, it will intrigue the kind of person who will find you interesting, attractive, and worth getting to know better.

## **Steps for Success**

1. Read your current dating profile and mark the boring cereal

box phrases. Make notes on how you can beef them up by being more specific.

2. Find little snippets of your life that show off your character. Write about those.

3. Don't be afraid to show yourself off. Self-confidence is sexy and will draw in exactly the kind of people that are good matches for you.

Need help? Check out the [Geek's Guide to Online Dating Success](#) on my site for more tips & tricks or [hire us](#) to write or re-write your dating profile.

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## Dating Headshots







Long gone are the days of standing awkwardly in the bathroom posing in front of the mirror for that perfect “Myspace” photo to upload online. Selecting a profile picture that sends the right message and makes you look your 100% best is easier said than done. Thankfully, Dating Headshots.com realized this for us and is offering professional, fun and flirty pictures to replace your current photo. Dating Headshots even analyzes your current profile photo for free.

Dating headshots boasts an 87% success rate that their clients find online matches.

Best of all, Dating Headshots.com comes to you. All you do is put in your zip code to find a photographer in your area and make an appointment. You get to choose the photographer that you want by looking through photographer profiles.

**Cupid readers are getting a special offer of a 10% discount off of Silver and Gold Studio photo shoots from Dating Headshots with code 209675 applied at checkout.**