

SUBJECT: Relationships True Secret to Successful Dating
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True Secret To Successful Dating

It has been nearly twelve years since I last had a truly bad dating experience. In fact it was my last worst dating experience ever.

I was divorced and had been learning how to date again in my early forties. The idea of dating was both challenging and honestly filled with some fear. Primarily fear of rejection.

I did what most people do, as we're taught to, through various media and stereotypical media situations. I went to bars, churches, parties, libraries hoping to meet that perfect new someone. I placed ads in various news media and internet dating search engines. I asked friends to network me to available women.

Over the course of ten years of dating I experienced over six hundred potential new relationships. All ethnic varieties no matter the nationality or skin tone. I treated every one as a person with potential. Three came close to maturing into permanency until I finally woke up to the truth and looked inside rather than to the other person for fulfillment.

Which leads me to my worst date ever and the lesson it taught me about successful relationships.

I had been divorced about six months and it was nearing my first Christmas without a relationship in many years. I was lonely and went to a nearby local restaurant lounge for a light meal and a glass of wine. It was there I met Martha. [not her real name].

Martha was divorced too, about a year, and had just moved to my area from another state. She was not really my type but I pretended an interest due to my extreme neediness in the moment. She later confessed she was doing the same.

Long story short we talked about nothing of real consequence and ended up touching and kissing in a booth for about half an hour before going to her place. We had a brief physical encounter of about an hour and parted company.

The entire time I was with her I was feeling extreme discomfort at what had just happened. Something was working on my mind that had been gestating over the last six months of dating.

I realized I was being an animal and less than human in my dating strategy. I was a predator seeking only physical fulfillment while hoping it would lead to an emotional fulfillment.

I called Martha as soon as I returned to my condo and was totally honest. I confessed that I was not interested in her romantically and that our tryst was a result of loneliness. She too felt the remorse of the connection without emotional honesty.

We both learned something that night.

Quality dating is not about animal attraction only. It is about honesty.

From that day forward, I was no longer in denial about what was important. When it comes to meeting potential relationships whether for love or friendship or even business ... it is honesty that matters most. A depth of honesty that is seemingly rare in today's society.

Honesty with regard to who one actually is. Honesty with regard to what one truly wants. Honesty with regard to your interaction with the other person. Real honesty as opposed to the superficial kind we attempt to portray outwardly due to fear of rejection.

I decided to use my single status to stop being what I thought I needed to be to attract a compatible mate. I was determined to be completely honest with every future date no matter the uncomfortable circumstance I might find myself experiencing.

I took out many new ads with quite honest text. I simply stated that I was seeking a relationship based on honest communications and no promises other than one. I wanted to enjoy making new memories with a partner.

That small ad brought me over five hundred responses in the nine years I used it.

With every person I met I no longer had the pressure of trying to be who I was not. They either liked me or did not. Most people seemed to genuinely like who I was because I accepted them honestly also. Eventually I would meet someone who connected with me enough to pursue second or third or more dates.

Yes there was sex with many solely for the attractive fun of it. The difference was that there was an honest groundwork of no expectations. That was understood right up front. If there was a true connection on an emotional level that was communicated up front too with no head games or secret agendas.

I am in a successful, happy, ten year relationship now with a woman who also was on a search for honesty in relationship. We are fully committed to each other but our honesty also allows for outside indulgences when a personal need arises. Personal need meaning we recognize the need for occasional others to play with sensually.

That may shock many who read this, yet if one looks around very few relationships last without the trauma of so called "cheating". Let's be honest here. No matter how much you love someone even if you promise to never play around ... you eventually will even if it's only in your mind. Not every one plays. But most of us do. It's in our nature.

So, in honoring myself and my mate, I promised to be me which included my desire to play with an occasion other without secrecy. She is allowed an equal opportunity. It takes maturity and understanding on a very intimate level for a couple to make such a commitment. Only honesty allows it to work.

Strangely, once one achieves that level of honesty the excitement of potential “playing around” diminishes and is no longer necessary.

Emotional dishonesty led me to wake up to the fact that successful dating requires unedited honesty. That honesty led me to understand that people whether a man and woman, two women or two men or some other love arrangement involving multiples always requires the most intimate of understandings.

Honesty. Lack of judgment and acceptance when one is receiving deep truth from another. Understanding when your partner is being honest to the degree that they are giving you the greatest gift of love possible short of a life sacrifice. You are trusted enough to receive their innermost secrets. Their true nature. Who they really are.