

GREAT TIPS FOR DATING SUCCESS

AN EXCLUSIVE GUIDE ON HOW TO
IMPROVE YOUR DATING LIFESTYLE
WHILE HAVING FUN AND PLAYING SAFE

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INTRODUCTION

If you are like most people, you want a partner. Maybe you're not ready for marriage or sharing an apartment, but each of us has a desire to complete our lives with a special person. And I don't mean just friends.

While friendships are wonderful and special in their own way, they cannot replace the human desire to pair off and form couples. The need for these pairings is not simply biological or even hormonal (although the sex drive does play a major role); it's emotional, psychological, and even spiritual.

If given the choice, most people do not want to live their lives without romantic entanglements. And you are probably one of those people, or else why would you be reading this book?

This book was designed to help you improve your dating lifestyle, to help you find potential partners and to keep the fun in your dating routine. I also included some very important safety guidelines that can help keep you out of dangerous situations.

Whether you are male or female, this book will assist you as you try to form the perfect couple.

Best Wishes & Happy Dating!

-Dr.Love

CHAPTER 1: How to Meet Your Next Great Date

Probably the question I'm most asked by singles is "Why am I not meeting anyone new?" And my response is always the same: "Because you aren't looking in the right places."

While it may be romantic to picture the guy or girl of your dreams crossing your path via the hand of destiny, in truth no relationship is just going to fall into your lap. You have to go out and look for it.

Think of it as a job search. If you want to land a great position, you can't sit at home by the phone waiting for a company to call you and say, "I heard through the grape vine that you were available. We want to hire you now!" That scenario is probably not going to happen, so instead you market yourself. You look through the newspaper, you send out resumes, you complete applications, you network, and you market yourself. And you don't give up when the first or the 50th interview doesn't land you a job. You have to persevere and explore every potential source of job leads.

The same is true if you want to find someone to date. If you're like most people, you have only uncovered the tip of the iceberg when it comes to your search. Now it's time to go below the surface and unearth the rest.

Friends

No, I'm not suggesting that you date your friends, although some of the strongest marriages began as friendships, but I am suggesting that you let them fix you up.

Remember that your close friends know the real you (or at least they should) better than anyone else, except your family. They know what music you like, what movies you've seen, and probably how you act after you've had a few too many mixed drinks. Technically, no one should be more qualified to help you find a soul mate.

Work

You probably spend at least eight hours of every day stuck in a place just teeming with available members of the opposite sex. Maybe you've heard the expression, "Don't dip your pen in company ink," and in most cases that's a motto to live by.

But if you work in an office building, there are probably dozens of companies around you full of eligible employees who are not considered "company ink." If you work in retail, you are meeting hundreds of potential dates every week and you don't even have to create excuses for making conversation with them! If you work in the service industry, part of your job is probably networking, so why not use the phone numbers of potential clients to land a dinner date for "business"? Not to mention the vendors, postal workers, and delivery people who come into your company daily.

Remember, you don't have to date your co-workers or your boss in order to find romance on the job. You just need to look beyond your cubicle.

School

Remember high school? Wasn't finding a date easier then? After all, you mixed with hundreds of available singles every day.

While college isn't quite as simplistic, it does give you a golden opportunity to mingle with a wide-variety of mostly single co-eds. College also has an advantage over those rambling locker-filled halls of your youth: these students are career-oriented and goal-focused. If your idea of a dream partner includes someone capable of holding down a decent job and being able to talk about books without their eyes glazing over, your local college might be a great place to look.

"I'm too old to go back to college," you might think.

"I can't afford the tuition," may be another thought.

Never fear, I'm not talking necessarily about attending college as a full-time, or even part-time, student (although that's an excellent choice). Some

universities and colleges also offer non-credit classes to people in their community for a reasonable price. These classes cover a wide-variety of topics, such as photography, computer programs, or career- development and generally require no previous knowledge of the subject. Part of the charm of these classes is that you cannot only meet someone who shares some of your interests, but you can also improve yourself at the same time.

If you don't have a college in your area, many schools offer similar services.

Community

Are you interested in making a difference in your city while you are scoping out the singles? Then community-service might be your answer.

Community-service isn't just for white-collar criminals. It's also a wonderful way for you to get involved in something, to meet new people, and to do something you're really proud of.

Take CPR classes, walk dogs for an animal shelter, tutor troubled kids after school, or distribute food at a soup kitchen - these are just a handful of community-service possibilities. You could help with fundraisers, join committees, develop public awareness for any of the hundreds of valuable organizations that work hard to make life better for people all around the country. And in the end, you (and hopefully a new "friend") can look back at what you've done and feel a true sense of accomplishment.

Bookstores

In case you've been hiding in a cave for the last half-decade, you already know that bookstores are "in" While shopping for books used to be enough to classify you as an undatable nerd, now only the coolest, hippest people are to be found among the trendy bookshelves of enormous, chain bookstores.

Bookstores have always been a nice place to meet new friends and lovers. After all, it's easy to start up a conversation with someone: just ask him or her what book they are reading. Now with the addition of cozy cafes,

bookstores have become a socially acceptable gathering place.

So find a book, order an espresso, and smile flirtatiously over the top of your pages at every attractive, interesting member of the opposite sex who passes your way.

Personal Ads

Whether you find them online or in your local newspaper, personal ads can be another avenue for your romantic searches. While you've probably heard horror stories about personal ads, you can easily avoid a negative experience by keeping in mind the golden rule of dating: Everyone lies about something. The lie may be as simple as saying they are 25 when they are really 30 or as disastrous as lying about their marital status.

The best advice is to take everything you read in those ads with a grain of salt; most were written deliberately to get your attention, not to reveal, and to have a good time.

Chat Rooms

While chat rooms are a legitimate form of meeting new people, you must proceed with extreme caution! Always remember that you do not know anything about your fellow chatters except what they tell you and rarely do they reveal the whole truth.

Many people do become addicted to the imaginary community found in a chat room. The conversations and the flirtations boost their egos and add spice to what, in some cases, is a rather unpleasant reality. Go into a chat room leery of these individuals.

With that in mind, you should also stick to people in your vicinity. Chat rooms can give you an opportunity to meet people from all over the world, but long distance relationships rarely work out. You'll have better luck with people you can have a relationship with outside of a computer screen.

Online Dating Sites

With the Internet becoming a hotbed of activity for both personal and commercial ventures, it should not surprise you that there are a plethora of web-based dating sites.

These sites use chat rooms, message boards, and e-mail to create a community atmosphere, which allows site members to interact with one another in a more relaxed manner.

Unlike online personal ads or ordinary chat rooms, the sites include detailed profiles (usually including photos) of members so you know more about whom you are communicating with.

Most sites also allow you to browse or search the profiles for people in certain geographical locations or with certain interests. The majority of these sites offer a free trial followed by a membership fee; so only those serious about meeting people generally join.

My web site DrLoveDoc.com maintains a listing of the top online dating sites you may want to drop by and see if you can find a site to fulfill your dating needs. I've also included the top 4 below:

- [Yahoo Personals](#)
- [PerfectMatch](#)
- [eHarmony](#)
- [American Singles](#)

Overall, if you are interested in finding dates from the privacy of your home, online dating sites are your best choices and offer a much better bet than chat rooms or online personal ads.

Dating Services

If you're still having trouble finding possible dates, you may want to consider professional assistance. A dating service will help put you in contact with their other clients who may have similar interests or who may be looking for someone who meets your description. Many include an extensive interview process and possibly involve a videotaped message to interested singles.

One of the best reasons to use a dating service is that, unlike with some methods, you go into the situation with more background information about the other person. Most reputable services do check out the information provided by their clients.

Also keep in mind that while a dating service can help you find a date, they can't make it a successful one. You're still in charge of the hard part.

CHAPTER TWO: Ideas for Interesting Interludes

So now you've found a lucky girl or guy to take on your next date, but now you're probably plagued with the next big question: "Where do we go?"

Dinner and a movie are always an option, but if you really want your first date to make an impression, try one of these unique and fun great date ideas.

Amusement Parks/Carnivals

It's hard not to have a good time at one of the happiest places on earth. Whether you choose to tackle the roller coasters or just to play games and soak up the atmosphere, you'll have plenty of opportunities for getting to know each other and for having fun. Also, these very public places are safer, especially for a first date. Just remember to pick up a souvenir on your way out.

Zoos

Another popular and public dating pick are zoos. Even if you aren't particularly impressed with the animals, the zoo will give you an opportunity to walk outside and talk without the stuffy atmosphere of a restaurant or a movie. It's also casual and relaxed, and the less pressure you feel on a date, the better.

Fun Sports

Nothing tells you more about a person than how they handle a little competition. Miniature golf, bowling, and darts are good choices because they are relatively simple to learn and offer some light-hearted fun. You can always make the game a little more interesting with a friendly wager; perhaps the loser can buy dinner.

Music Shopping

If you're a music lover, then finding a partner probably means hooking up with someone who has compatible musical tastes. So find out right away. Go to your local music store, split up, and buy one CD each. Then, listen to your picks together and see if your tastes hit the right notes.

Dog Parks

Love your dog? Make it a part of the date, too. Many large cities have dog parks where people can bring their pets and let them run and frolic in a safe, enclosed area. If your date also has a dog, you can make it a double date!

Volunteer Activity

A great way to share a date is by volunteering together. Feed the homeless, clean up a local park, or spend the day with some underprivileged children, no matter which activity you choose, you'll have plenty of time to get to know each other while you do something you can both feel good about.

And, of course, there are always a few places or events you should avoid like the plague, especially on the first date. A few examples would be the following:

Movies/Concerts

With all the noise and the crowds, you won't have an opportunity to talk and get to know each other, which is the entire purpose of a first date. Plus, movies and music are highly subjective: what one person likes, another person may hate. So don't risk blowing it before it even gets started.

Parties

Again, crowds and noise - plus alcohol - can make even the most laid back date feel uncomfortable. Go alone, go with friends, but don't take your first date.

Family Gatherings

These situations are even stressful for the family members who have to be there, so imagine what it would be like to thrust a stranger into the melee. Don't do it!

Buffets/Fast Food Restaurants

Even if you can't afford a relatively nice restaurant, avoid both of these if you want to impress your date. For one, nothing is less romantic than filling your own soda cups or piling food on your own plate. Go for a picnic or cook a meal instead.

When you decide on a dating activity, use your imagination and pick something both of you will enjoy. Nice restaurants are great, but planning something a little different may make the difference between an okay date and a fabulous one.

CHAPTER 3: Dating Etiquette 101

Whether it's your first date or your hundredth, chances are you still feel unsure of how to be on your best behavior. A date is already a high pressure situation and stressing out about good etiquette will only make it worse, so here are a few do's and don'ts to help you make a fantastic impression.

Never talk with food in your mouth

Always finish chewing and swallowing before responding - nothing is more unattractive than a mouth full of partially mashed meat and vegetables

Always Bring a Small Gift

This goes for the ladies also. Bring a small flower, a small box of their favorite candy, or any small token of your admiration. It's a nice way to start off any date.

Never drink too much

There are almost too many reasons for this one, so instead of alcohol have a cola or a "virgin" version of your favorite mixed drink

Always tip well

If you pay the tab or split the bill, make sure you leave an appropriate (at least 15%) tip for your server. After all, you never want your date to think of you as a cheap-skate

Never talk badly about your former love interests

You've probably heard the old advice about never bad-mouthing your past employers, well the same applies to your past relationships. Even if you dumped your last guy for being a cheating jerk or your last girl for being a clingy nag, now is not the time to recount the gruesome details.

Always say at least one nice thing to your date

Whether you feel chemistry or not, whether you plan to go out again or not, always give your date at least one sincere compliment during the evening.

Never push romance or intimacy

You may feel that the date is going great and maybe you're ready for a kiss, but never push the issue. If your date seems reluctant, you should respect that.

Always bring enough money

*Nothing can be more embarrassing than not being able to pay your tab. Always bring some cash, as well, in case there is a problem with your credit card.

Never be rude or critical

Dating is hard enough without having a date who tells you everything you are doing wrong all the time - keep in mind the old adage: if you can't say something nice, don't say anything.

Always stay focused on the other person

Nothing will ruin a date faster than one person's roving eye or a failure to pay attention when the other person is speaking. So give your complete attention to your date - they deserve that much

Never ask financially-focused questions

A date, especially early on, is not the time for questions like "How much do you earn a year?" or "What did that car cost you?" And you should also avoid flaunting those dollar amounts as well. People are about more than their salaries.

Always be yourself

Don't try to impress your date with tales of your fabulous job or your huge bank account if you don't have either. Be honest and be who you really are; otherwise, your date may not be interested in you, but in who you are pretending to be.

Never take (or make) cell phone calls while on a date

Turn it off! Nothing is ruder than ignoring your date to take a phone call. Unless you're a doctor being called for an emergency, your date will not be impressed.

Always be on time

The worst way to start a date is to be late. Obviously delays may occur, so if you are running behind, give your date a call. A simple act of courtesy can prevent your date from getting off track.

Never promise to call if you don't plan to

So the date was lousy and ending the evening is awkward, never promise a call or a future date unless you plan to follow through. Instead, simply wish them a pleasant evening and head home. If they ask you directly, be honest, but not rude.

Always look your best

Maybe we shouldn't be judged by how we look, but the fact is most people feel more confident, more vibrant when they feel that they look nice. So spend the extra time picking out your clothes and fixing your hair, it'll be worth it.

Never expect something afterward

Men and women are both guilty of this: expecting a little more from a date than just a fun evening. If your only objective on a date is to get sex, you will not get to know the person and you will not be forming a meaningful relationship.

That's fine, but make sure the other person is fully aware of the relationship's limitations as well.

Always think positively

The best way to make your date a great one is to go into it with optimism and a smile!

CHAPTER FOUR: Dating Safe

The one point I want to emphasize to both sexes is to stay safe while you date! Any date has the potential to become a dangerous, even life-threatening, situation. The answer isn't to give up dating, after all you stand a good chance of getting assaulted in the workplace, too, but most people don't quit their jobs. The answer is to stay alert and be informed. The following are some important tips to help keep you out of harm's way:

Value Your Privacy

You wouldn't go up to a stranger on the street and give him or her your home address, would you? Then why give it out to a first date or someone you've met on the Internet? The same is true for other personal information: phone numbers, places of employment, etc. When you reveal too much, too fast you leave yourself vulnerable. Instead, of meeting your date at his or her apartment, meet them at an agreed upon, public location. For communications, use cell phones and pagers instead of home or work numbers, and avoid giving out specifics about your job or routine until you get to know the person better.

Stay Public

Until you get to know someone better, you should keep your relationship as public as possible. Don't go back to his place, don't drive together in her car, don't meet in an isolated area. Most out-of-control situations occur when there are no other people around. Instead, only go to public locations on dates, drive separately, and never go back to their place. If you avoid potentially dangerous situations, you will stay safe.

Stay In-Control

One of the biggest mistakes you can make on a date is to impair your judgment with drugs or alcohol. When you are under their influence, your thoughts may become clouded and your ability to respond appropriately to situations will become hindered. Your safety is too important to risk on a temporary buzz.

Protect Yourself Appropriately

It's natural for a dating relationship to move to the next level, but when that time comes, you have a responsibility to yourself and to your partner to use protection. Bring condoms and any other preferred birth control devices along on the date every time, so if things do escalate to that next level, you won't have the opportunity to be tempted into engaging in an unprotected activity that may have dire consequences for both of you.

Plan for an Alternative Ride

If things are going bad, or if you're feeling uncomfortable, you need to have an easy way out. So if you don't want to drive separately, at least come prepared with enough cash for an alternative way home. Whether it's a bus, a cab, or a subway, it's better than an uncomfortable car ride.

Tell Someone Your Plans

It may be your best friend, your sister, or even your mom, but make sure when you are going out on the town that you inform someone close to you of your plans. You don't need to fax them a detailed itinerary, but you should tell them who you'll be with and where you're going. It may seem ridiculous or unnecessary, but if something does happen to you at least someone will know how to begin looking for you.

Trust Your Instincts

Most importantly, trust yourself. If you are in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable, even if you can't pinpoint the reason, trust your feelings. Don't wait for something to happen, just free yourself from the situation as soon as possible.

By following these safety precautions, you'll insure that all you need to worry about on your next date is the good night kiss.

Epilogue: Dating & Beyond

Hopefully, you've found these chapters full of helpful ideas for finding, enjoying, and staying safe on the perfect date. But maybe you think there's just too much to remember, especially under the stress of an important date. In that case, all you need to remember are these four tips:

1. Be Optimistic - think positively and things will go your way
2. Be Courteous - treat your date the way you want to be treated
3. Be Alert - stay safe and in control to protect yourself
4. Be Yourself - relax, have fun, and enjoy the date

Whether you're eighteen or sixty-eight, whether you've always been single or you're recently divorced, with these four tips under your belt you are sure to have many memorable relationship encounters.

So as you continue your pursuit of a romantic partnership, even a brief one, use these secrets to secure your dating success.

And if you have any questions, comments, or dating suggestions of your own, I'd love to hear them.

You can contact me through my web site DrLoveDoc.com

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