

The scam survivors' handbook



*Advice from scam survivors Worldwide,
in their own words.*

www.romancescam.com

THE SCAM SURVIVORS' HANDBOOK

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CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE....

TERMS USED IN THIS BOOK.

"DO CERTAIN SCAMS ORIGINATE FROM CERTAIN AREAS?"

"ARE THERE ANY SIMPLE "RULES OF THUMB" TO HELP SPOT A SCAMMER?"

AMY'S STORY.

"CAN I GET MY MONEY BACK?"

"MY SCAMMER PROMISED TO PAY BACK MY MONEY IF I REMOVE MY REPORT ON HIM. WILL HE?"

"HELP! MY SCAMMER IS THREATENING ME/MY FAMILY! WHAT CAN I DO?"

HOPELESSROMANTIC'S STORY.

"I FEEL SO STUPID."

"IS THERE ANY WAY TO GET MY SCAMMER ARRESTED?"

GILRAEN'S STORY.

"CAN I CONVERT MY SCAMMER AND MAKE HIM STOP SCAMMING?"

DOC'S STORY.

"WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT THE SCAMMERS MORE?"

ELEPHANNE'S STORY.

CHROMENEON'S STORY.

"I WAS SENT A SCAN OF A PASSPORT. HOW CAN I TELL IF IT'S GENUINE?"

DIDI'S STORY.

"HOW CAN I FIND THE REAL PERSON IN THE PHOTOS TO LET THEM KNOW THAT SCAMMERS ARE ABUSING THEIR PICTURES?"

LEEANN_MARK'S STORY.

"I SENT MY SCAMMER PERSONAL DETAILS. HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT?"

ITHAPPENED2ME2'S STORY.

"MY FRIEND/FAMILY MEMBER WAS SCAMMED. WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE?"

BROOKS' STORY.

"HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE EMOTIONAL SIDE OF BEING SCAMMED?"

"HOW CAN I FORGET MY SAD EXPERIENCE COMPLETELY?"

ROMANCESSCAM.COM

DUCKHUNTER'S STORY.

HEXE'S STORY.

"WHAT ARE IP ADDRESSES AND WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?"

"SO WHAT ARE THESE PROXIES YOU TALKED ABOUT EARLIER?"

CHILDRG0'S STORY.

"WHAT IS A BAITER?"

"HOW DO I SAFE BAIT?"

RED ZORA'S STORY.

CRESCENTMOON'S STORY .

INTRODUCTION.

They're perfect. In fact, they're someone you could see yourself spending the rest of your life with. A decent person with a good job or business in search of a good, honest partner to settle down with.

You or someone you know may be dating this person online right now. However, be warned. Things aren't what they appear to be. In reality you're talking to a criminal sitting in a cybercafé with a well rehearsed script he's used many times before. He's hunting through chat rooms, dating sites and social networking sites searching for victims, looking to cash in on romance. If you are over 40, recently divorced, a widow, elderly or disabled then all the better in his eyes. Scammers are adept at psychological profiling, and use any weakness they find to their advantage.

It's the newest evolution of the Nigerian advance fee (419) scam. Instead of sending spam letters that promise millions for your assistance, these scammers are targeting single men and women who are searching for love online.

They use psychological tricks to lure their victims in, use poetry and even gifts to get them under their spell, then once you are there, will try to reach for your wallet, all the time declaring their "undying love" for you. The scam may take the form of asking you to cash a cheque for them through your bank account because they are "out of the country" and unable to cash it themselves, or they may come right out and ask you to send money to help them out of a fabricated "financial difficulty" they claim to be experiencing. These are all lies used to try to make them easy money from an unsuspecting victim.

The sad truth is, for every real profile you see on the internet, there are numerous false ones pretending to be your perfect mate and using photographs stolen from modelling or social networking sites. The people in the photographs are as much victims as the people who get scammed for hundreds, thousands, even tens of thousands of dollars. Internet romance scams and other related crimes are very real, and they are affecting -- even ruining -- lives throughout the world.

The best weapon against this crime is education. The more people that are educated in the ways the scams work, the harder it is for the scammers to make money and the more scammers that can be put out of business. That's what this book is for. We want to get the information out into the public domain. In it you'll find advice on how to spot and avoid scammers as well as answers to some of the most commonly asked questions on the romancescam.com forum. We'll also show stories told by the members of our forum on how they became the victims of scammers, or "scam survivors" as they prefer to be called.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE....

Before we begin, I'd like to explain how I ended up writing this book. Back in 2005 I discovered the world of scam baiting. I'd like to think I was a pretty good baiter in my time, that others read my baits and decided to have a try themselves. It would be fun to think that somewhere in the world, even right now someone is talking a scammer into doing something silly on webcam after being influenced by one of my baits.

Within a few months I found myself talking to the people who had been scammed, and a whole new chapter opened up for me. I began to see the damage caused by the scammers. I saw lives ruined, people left penniless and even people on the brink of suicide after being scammed and taken for everything they owned. I've never been scammed myself, and up until this point baiting was a fun hobby that had given me a lot of laughs, but nothing else. As I began to work with the survivors of scams, I found that most had never heard of romance scammers until they were scammed. There was very little in the media about romance scammers and very little being done to educate people on the way the romance scammers worked. Standard 419 scams were being talked about, but not this variation that not only emptied bank accounts but broke hearts. Thankfully these days it's being talked about more and more. People are becoming aware of romance scams and the utter devastation it leaves behind.

This book is another way to spread the word, along with the internet accounts set up on YouTube and social networking sites by like minded people. All the stories you read in this book will be in the person's own words. Not everyone has English as their first language, so don't expect their stories to be perfectly written. These are THEIR stories in THEIR own words. It took a lot of courage for each of them to come forward and admit that they were scammed. It also takes a great deal of strength to want to be referred to not as a scam victim, but as a scam survivor. To all the scam survivors I would like to say thank you. Thank you and forever stay strong. You are the reason I continue to fight the scammers and you are the reason this book is being written. Thank you to the forum moderators, who do a wonderful job each and every day of helping those that pass through our doors. Also, thank you to Marisa, who created romancescam.com as a way to warn everyone about these thieves and what they do. Without her tremendous drive and conviction there would be no site, no forum and the scammers would find life a lot less difficult than they do now.

If the advice and stories found here manage to stop one person from being scammed, or make one person feel that they're no longer alone in their situation then their efforts in retelling their stories would all be worth it.

Wayne.....

This book contains both stories from scam survivors and the answers to the most commonly asked questions on our forum. Stories will start with XXXXXXXX'S STORY and the questions will be in "QUOTATION MARKS" before the answer is given.

TERMS USED IN THIS BOOK.

Let us explain what some of the terms we'll be using throughout the book mean. Not all of these terms apply to every site. Some will use their own variations, but we'll cover as many as possible so you'll understand what's being discussed.

Catcher/Thrower account - A catcher account is used to receive emails, either by a lad to receive victim emails or a baiter to receive scammer emails. A thrower account is used by scammers to send out their format. The catcher account details will be sent out in the email from the thrower account, as in "email me back at XXXXXX@XXXX.com"

EFCC - Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. A law department in Nigeria that often deals with cybercrimes.

EXIF data - The hidden data in photos that you can often find with the right tools. They show when a photo was taken, with what camera, if and when it was altered and with what software.

Format and script -The scammers refer to their stories as "formats". Everything that victims and other scammers send to them is carefully stored in their drafts folder, be it a letter, a poem, a profile description or chat transcript . Formats are their working tools. The pre-written letters sent by vlads are traditionally called "scripts".

Headers/IP address - Headers are the part of an email you usually don't see. The IP address is a part of the headers that will show you the (approximate unless you're in law enforcement and able to get the complete information off the internet provider) location the email was sent from. The information shown are the internet provider's contact details and not that of the scammer.

ITP rule = innocent third party rule, we never involve anyone else in our baits that isn't aware they are participating. This even includes law enforcement.

Lad - Scammer from West Africa. Originates from the term "Lads from Lagos"

LEO - Law Enforcement Officer.

Maga is from the Igbo language. A maga is a fool, but a generous one that God has sent the scammer. They are maga as long as they pay. Maga and 'job' are practically interchangeable except a job might not have paid yet. Once a maga turns accusatory or hostile, or turns out to be a baiter (they call us jokers) then the maga becomes a mugu, which is a very derisive term and why we also call them mugus.

Mugu means "big fool" in the Igbo language

Pinay - Scammer from the Philippines. Pinay means "Filipino female" and Pinoy means Filipino male.

Proxy - A proxy server allows you to connect to the internet via a 3rd part, thus hiding your real location. Proxies are the computers used to connect via the server. We cover this in more detail later in the book

Trophy - Anything the scammer makes or does specifically for you that takes up their time. Hunted for by baiters, not relevant to catchers.

Vlad - Scammer from Russia/Ukraine.

"DO CERTAIN SCAMS ORIGINATE FROM CERTAIN AREAS?"

Very much so. In fact it's usually easy to tell where the scams are from by the type of scam they are, the photos they use and even the wording in the emails. Let's look at a few.

Senegal scammers.

These are almost always about some poor lady stuck in a refugee camp and desperately trying to get her murdered father's hidden fortune out of the country. They'll give you the supposed pastor's number and you'll often see them describe the weather as "a little cold here in Senegal". Profile pictures are often of flowers or scenery.

Malaysian scammers.

These always pretend to be white engineers in the UK, and target Asian ladies (Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia). A white British engineer who later appears in Malaysia is always a Nigerian scam, especially if the person being targeted is from Asia.

Russian scammers.

Russian scammers use a very automated system to scam. Emails are replied to without even being read a lot of the time. Expect questions to not be answered or a short answer slotted into the email, usually in the middle or end. These ones profess love very quickly and then need your assistance in helping to pay for them to come visit you.

Ukrainian scammers.

The photos used by these scammers are always models, and there'll always be a translation agency that needs paying.

Filipino scammers.

Rare in that these ones are real ladies who will appear on webcam. Typically these ones ask for money for school fees, medicine for themselves or a family member or will even to pay to see you. These will refer to you as their boyfriend rather than husband, which is more typical of the Nigerian scammers.

Nigerian/Ghanaian scammers.

These will constantly ask you to talk to them on IM, and will try to take all your attention every second you're online. Stories vary, but some common ones are that they're an engineer, building a bridge, a model on an assignment there, a soldier, on an oil rig or currently there collecting some treasure/money left to them by a parent. The money requests could be for anything and everything (and we really do mean anything, from help to get their fortune out of the country to a request for aid to buy tampons and even on one occasion help in bringing their client back from Mars where he's suffering a ruptured uterus after being anal probed by the Martians!), but of course the money requests will come. As a general rule, the moment Africa and more specifically West Africa or Nigeria are mentioned, expect the talk to turn sooner rather than later to that of their needing "a little help".

"ARE THERE ANY SIMPLE "RULES OF THUMB" TO HELP SPOT A SCAMMER?"

Did they contact you and immediately give you their email address so they can speak to you off the site?

Is their account no longer on the site? They claim to have removed it because they found true love with you and don't need it anymore, but the truth is that the site closed their account down for mass mailing.

Do they have their first and last names mixed, such as Smith Michael? Scammers often mix up first and last names.

Do they misspell their name, Marry instead of Mary, Scoot instead of Scott and so on?

Do they say "Am XXXXXX by name", "Am the only child of my parents" or "Am an engineer by profession"? Using "Am" instead of "I am" is a typically West African way of speaking. A huge warning sign if they use photos of Caucasians.

Do they "BUZZ" or "DING" you constantly when you talk in instant message?

Are they vague about the place they claim to live at? Can they tell you about the place with any kind of detail and without pauses that give them time to search for answers?

Do they give an occupation as part of their name, such as Engineer Davies Fred?

Do they ask you to appear on webcam, but come up with excuses why they can't appear on webcam. Not the case when they admit from the start to being a West African male.

Do they claim to be from the UK/USA/Germany etc. but "currently in Africa"? This will be to explain away why they need money sent to Africa.

Does their accent sound like the nationality they claim to be? Many will pretend to have a parent from Nigeria and one from another country to try to cover this.

Do they mention a refugee camp in Senegal? Google phrases from their emails and you'll see they use very similar scripts a lot. There's one line that talks about how the weather is "a little cold" in one of the scripts that we see a lot.

Does it ever seem like you're not talking to just one person? Scammers often work in groups and you may be talking to 3 or 4 different people all claiming to be the same person.

Do they give you a UK number that starts with 070 or an American number that starts with 206? Both are internet "follow me" numbers that can redirect to anywhere in the world.

Do they claim to be a soldier, and either ask you for help in bringing cash or an item out of the country, or tell you that they need special equipment to be able to talk to you before giving you the address of the company that can supply the equipment?

Do any phrases from their emails show up on search engines? They often use the same scripted messages to dozens, maybe hundreds of victims, plus scammers will steal each other's "format". They also steal poems from poetry sites and pretend they wrote it.

Check the IP address in their emails to see if they show the location they claim to be at, if they're listed as being used with scams or if they're listed as proxies.

Use TinEye.com and ScamDigger.com to see if their photos have been stolen. SD has over 100,000 images that have been used by scammers, but not finding it there doesn't mean they're not a scammer. It simply means that photo isn't in its database.

Do they ask for money? Do they ask for you to send it via Western Union or MoneyGram, or to have your bank details so they can send you money?

Do they mention basic travel allowance? This is a common trick used by scammers. BTA doesn't exist, and when it did, it wasn't in the form the scammers claim.

Are they in the Ukraine and asking for translation fees so they can continue talking to you?

These are just basic pointers. Even if none of these apply to you, the moment they ask for money for any reason is the time to walk away. Walk away and don't even give them a second thought.

AMY'S STORY.

"Hi, my name is Amy. I was scammed by a Nigerian. I sent over \$15,000 to a man who called himself Daniel Smith. No, I had never met him."

Why is that so terribly hard for me to say? Confessing to being scammed by a 24 year old, black Nigerian male feels almost equal to standing up in a room and announcing, "I have an addiction," or, "I have a social disease." Why do I suspect though, that there would be more acceptance, compassion and understanding shown me, if I only were admitting to an addiction?

Even as I write this I replay again in my mind, for what seems like the millionth time, the events leading up to the day my heart completely broke. The day I learned - for certain - that Daniel Smith was not real. I write this for one purpose and one purpose only. I stand here before you to share my story. I want to pay forward and pass on what I have learned. I want to send out an 'early alert' to those of you, who like me, were naïve and open to a new relationship or a new romance.

I am an educated, successful executive. I am attractive, have friends I care about and a son who has brought me more joy that I can ever state. And, I am deeply lonely. I have been divorced for over a decade. I chose not to date (telling myself that parenting had to come first; but that's not the whole truth - I was and am afraid of being vulnerable again, of being hurt) until my son was old enough to understand.

There are hundreds of men and women who might stand here with me, if they could. But like me, their shame runs deep. What would their friends say if they truly knew the whole story? What would their children say, or their family? Like me, many choose to live in silence, suffering both broken dreams and financial ruin.

I turned to online dating as a way of putting one toe in the water; a baby step toward getting back into the dating game. All of my married friends encouraged me, and yet they all said the same thing, "I'm so glad I don't have to go through all of that again".

I wish I could say that I was just unlucky, that the first man online who caught my attention just happened to be a scammer. But I will tell you now, that anyone who joins an online dating service as a 'newbie' will, like me, get hit on numerous times by men (and men masquerading as women) within 24 hours of joining. That's the game played by the scammers. One of their first questions is, "How long have you been on the site?". Once you answer honestly, "I just joined," bingo, they're already past phase one. Men (and the few women) who scam, are relentless in their pursuit of money. They do not care if you are reaching out to a new relationship because your spouse died. They do not care that you've been traumatized by past relationships, or even if you're just curious. They don't care about what you look like, how old you are or anything about your story.

Hundreds, probably thousands of us, around the world, have gone online with the same purpose – to fill a void in the 'relationship space'. The internet has provided us all a means to learn about potential relationships that we would never have been able to experience otherwise. The internet has also provided predators with yet another way to find prey. Having now spent probably hundreds of hours online as either someone who was being scammed or someone learning about scammers, I have learned that scammers are equal opportunity actors. It doesn't matter how educated, empathic or street-wise we are, scammers fall into the category of a predator. Scammers have one goal – they want our money. And, they will go about it any way they can, through any open door.

The pursuit of money under the guise of love is not a new one. For decades, men and women alike have tried to better their way of life by finding a 'benefactor' – someone who could provide them a life they would not otherwise have experienced. Why is this new onslaught of scamming any different? It's different because for the first time, technology has allowed for a rapid escalation of communications that can capture a heart (before, we relied on mail or the phone to build bridges. Now, we use our fingers to type).

Predators are in every country. They find and prey on the young, the old, the weak and the

vulnerable. In one way, we are all downwind on this one – affairs of the heart make all of us vulnerable. I know, deep inside, that I saw tiny signs, small inconsistencies, in Daniel’s story that had the hair on the back of my neck prickle but my heart was so full of infatuation with a new potential relationship that I couldn’t see past my feelings.

No matter how smart, no matter how educated, all of us can be prey. Crocodile attacks, shark attacks, all attacks in the wild, are not random. They follow a pattern. Target the weak, the ill and the vulnerable (young or old). Isolate them. Attack them. There is a natural purpose to both predators and to prey. Understanding these reasons and patterns, we can learn to represent ourselves differently in our world. We can learn how NOT to be perceived as prey. If you are reading this, I pray that you have not yet sent money to someone you have never seen face to face. I pray that your heart is not yet broken over the many broken promises made by those who scam. I pray that, if your heart is broken, that you find your own way back home as swiftly as possible. That you heal and live past what happened.

Unlike most of you, I learned the real identify of the man who scammed me. After many, many months of gaining his trust, I learned that he is 24 and says he now has a job in a bank. He has friends who had turned to scamming and he decided to do the same to try to make some fast money. Money that could be used to buy land, help him go to college and even just to buy nice things for himself. When I asked him what his goal was, his response was, “Sorry to say, I didn't have one.”

Now, let me flash back to the many months before I knew his real identity – to the time where I felt utterly and completely in love with a younger man from Spain named Daniel Smith, a man who was so infatuated with me, he promised me his eternal love; the man to whom I had given my heart. I next flash to the moment in that period of time where I was devastated to learn I had been scammed. In what felt like only a split second I went from intoxicating joy and love, to a complete sense of betrayal never before experienced; to a time where I held out hope that maybe everyone was actually wrong – maybe he really wasn’t a scammer and he really did love me. In my mind I go back to a time where I questioned my own intuition, my own intelligence and my own sanity. How could I have been so fooled? And the worst part, I lapsed back to a time of indecision. Who should I, who could I, trust, tell, confide in and not be judged?

I do not encourage anyone, and I mean anyone, to learn the identity of their scammer. Not because I believe scammers can reach across seas and into another country to do physical harm (though I have heard some stories that are alarming, in general they're just after easy money), but because I believe staying connected to an individual who has no remorse whatsoever doesn't serve anyone's benefit and doing so actually extends the period of painful awareness.

It is so important that this point gets across - scammers prey on men and women who are good hearted individuals. Scammers employ any technique they can to identify, isolate and create a dependency for their victims. Scammers are 'equal opportunity' opportunists. I think of them as 'energy vampires'. The faster they can have you racing home to your emails or your chats, the closer they are to smelling money. The best ones will take weeks, maybe months, to learn about your local culture and local lingo, and draw you in, creating deeper dependencies.

While there are lots of simply inept scammers, there are some highly educated and 'hard to detect' scammers and these are the most dangerous. These will go to extraordinary means to gain access to your life, your emotions and your heart. They all have one thing in common – they are all very motivated to take your money – by way of your heart.

They are unrelenting and merciless. While I could argue that it is possible that for a moment in time, they may actually step into their acting role and believe their own words of love, they are simply predators. They are only, and forever, looking for and feeding on individuals who do not know about scammers, individuals of all ages, all walks of life that have one thing in common – people looking for a partner. Someday, in a different environment, using different technologies, there will be a way to segregate scammers from the rest. Until then, the more we are educated, the faster we can learn how to stop portraying ourselves as prey.

Before I go back to my story, I will briefly share what I have learned in the last 11 months of my education. I have learned that while there are many scammers in many countries, there is no greater a proliferation of scammers than in Nigeria. Why? Nigeria is a country of extremes. There is great wealth alongside abject poverty. It has been called "Africa in the raw". Northern and Southern Nigeria can be viewed as two separate countries, two distinct cultures and histories - the Yoruba tribe (mainly in Southern Nigeria, where the early

Portuguese traders made a fortune with slave trade) and the northern Ibo tribe (mainly Islamic and spared the influence of Europe until later in the 19th century). Even today, tension between the various communities can lead to civil unrest. As late as 2002, over 10,000 people were killed in fresh outbreaks of fighting.

Nigeria continues with a population explosion, putting ever increasing pressure on already taxed resources. About half of Nigerians are Muslim; another 35% are Christian and the balance follow traditional paths, where Juju, the basis for native voodoo, is continued and often intermingles with rudimentary Christianity. Nigeria has cultures, and sub cultures that non Nigerians cannot even comprehend.

Please hear me. Nigeria is also host to good, well meaning and well educated people. I apologize in advance to any Nigerian citizens who live 'above the line' with regards to morality and ethics. It is not my intent to disparage them or the country of Nigeria. I share what I have learned because the learning has caused me to understand that there is a unique complexity within Nigeria that non Nigerians simply have no comparison and as such, no natural defense mechanisms.

Nigeria experiences deeply embedded corruption, where bribes are commonplace and a way of life; a feeding ground for those who scam and who are encouraged to scam. In some communities, top notch scammers are both highly educated and respected in the community. They are viewed as 'hero's, who bring balance by re-claiming monies due them, monies that are in the hands of others.

Scamming is a learned skill, taught, sometimes at a very early age. In Nigeria, unless there is money within the family, 'public' education stops at age 13. These children have to learn to fend for themselves. Scamming is one venue that can be taught as a way of life, a way to support oneself, or to support a family. Scamming is organized into groups equal to the Mafia in the United States. It serves as a familial support group where a teenager can start at the bottom and work their way up, learning the business at every junction. Young teenagers are locked into internet cafes at night, where they work in shifts, sleeping on cots. Their objective? Smile, wink, email or capture, in any way possible, the attention of individuals looking for love on online dating sites. Once identified, a potential victim may be unknowingly communicating with a composite of a person (several scammers, in shifts, over

time). Once money is 'smelled', it's not uncommon to bring in the 'heavy guns', the top scammer with the best command of English, using the best seductive measures. If you have already sent money to a scammer, it is probable that half of it has been spent paying off bribes to those who assisted in the background.

Again, I will speak from my personal experience. I fell in love. I did. You may ask, "Did you ever suspect that you may have been scammed?"

The answer is, "Yes, I did." Daniel, the man who scammed me, had a knack for avoiding every single personal question I could have asked (something akin to nailing Jello to a tree), ranging from where he lived to describing what he did for a living. Looking back on it now, and after having also baited and exposed probably a dozen scammers or so, Daniel was not very good at scamming. I simply just didn't know there were 'scammers' out there, so I had no context. I thought his broken English was adorable (you'll have a chance to read my story later, if you're interested) and that the predicaments he found himself in were a result of his naiveté in the business world (he was always asking my opinion on what to do). I was 'in love' with his infatuation with me, an older woman, whom he described as a gift sent to him straight from God. Let me remind you. I had not dated in over a decade.

After I learned his real identify, I was driven to try to learn if he had really lied about everything. Surely, all those sweet words of love were not all lies.

You are probably curious as to how he was exposed. I will simply thank Romancescam.com for hours of effort by one of the moderators there. Not only was I provided the very important support toward my healing process, but she also took on the task of showing me Daniel Smith wasn't real by re-directing the scammer's attention to herself and showing me the hard evidence. Since all moderators at Romancescam.com are unpaid for their hours of tireless work, and do what they do to simply help others, I cannot say enough positive words about the site.

So, let's fast forward again to my story. I won't go into every detail (since that really isn't important) but my story is like so many, many others. Daniel Smith was living in Houston, Texas and worked independently as a project manager in construction. At the time he introduced himself to me on Match.com, he was in London for an assignment, coming home in three weeks time. We emailed constantly, spent hours on chat and after three weeks, were

both extremely excited about his return to Texas. Daniel was so smitten that he had decided to fly to Austin rather than to Houston, as he couldn't wait another minute to meet/see me. We worked out all the details, where we would meet at the airport, what he was wearing/what I was wearing, what we would do for the weekend and how he would stay as long as he possibly could before taking another assignment.

Words can't adequately describe how excited I was at having love back in my life. It felt like I was experiencing a living romance novel with myself as the main character.

Daniel was concerned about how my friends and family might feel about our age difference (20 years) so he asked me to keep our evolving relationship a secret, until he could stand by my side and show everyone how much he adored me. After many 'arguments' over this, I reluctantly agreed. I certainly had nothing to be ashamed of.

During our three weeks, I learned a lot about Daniel but very little about his life in Houston. I learned he had relocated to Houston from Spain six years earlier, had caught his wife cheating with his best friend and had only had one relationship since. His dad had died when he was 13. He had no family in the U.S. and had come to Houston for work. He was vague about describing details about his current assignment and even more vague about the neighborhood where he lived in Houston (he preferred to take me there himself when he was back). He was looking for his life-mate and felt, in his soul, that I was 'the one'. While I was skeptical of his ability to know this before having met me, his continual stream of words of adoration and his steadfast belief in 'romantic' love opened my heart (having some male Cuban friends, I also accepted that as a European, he was more comfortable expressing his feelings). He sent me flowers for Valentine's Day, and sent flowers and chocolates right before he was to fly back to the U.S. (please – if you ever get gifts of any kind, in this manner – do not accept them – they are paid for with stolen credit cards).

Daniel wanted to finally stop traveling and start a family based business. He recognized we had to wait until we met to make sure the chemistry was real, but he was so certain of his feelings that he had already begun to make plans for building this business. He wanted to know if I might be interested in being part of these future plans, that he would explain more once we met. Daniel spent a lot of time building up 'great expectations' for our first visit together.

The day he was to travel, he let me know he needed help. He had been paid with a cashier's check that he couldn't cash there. It was too large. He sent me a copy of his check and asked if I could help him by sending him cash via Western Union to pay his part of his hotel bill (he had worked it out with hotel management to pay the balance upon his return to the U.S. when he had access to his funds). We spent three days with my discussing alternatives with him (I was reluctant to send money, for all the right reasons). Finally, I gave in – I decided to believe his story. After a series of continuous mishaps (the hotel decided not to honor their agreement to have him pay the balance upon his return, the ticket he had purchased for travel had expired and was non refundable, there were fines he had to pay with keeping his equipment in storage, etc), and after many, many arguments about money, I finally began to accept that maybe, just maybe Daniel wasn't real.

Even after I definitively learned Daniel wasn't real, my heart needed to learn. I wanted to believe that even though he wasn't real, he must have really loved me. No one could say what he said to me and not have meant it.

Here's my very painful truth – Daniel, or rather the 24 year old black Nigerian behind the picture of Daniel, was in this only for the money. Once exposed, he had no remorse, even when he was made aware of my broken heart and my financial devastation. He believed God had answered his prayers and he was very grateful for God's gifts.

I was given the opportunity to confront him, so I took it. I found that rather than feel a sense of completion, I only felt more betrayed. His lack of compassion, or comprehension of his duplicity, was more than unsettling. He had done nothing wrong. God had provided a way for him. I was merely the provider. I had never before reflected on the last thoughts of a sacrificial victim of any type of ritual, but his attitude brought this to my mind. No remorse. None.

I will close my story now with these parting words. If you have doubts about someone you have met online, read the many tips provided by Romancescam.com to help you determine your own situation. Reflect on the laws of nature and how predators work – they identify opportunity, they isolate and they attack. Review your written profile (avoid words that may identify you as vulnerable, needy or alone). And remember, rule number one – never send money to someone you have just met and only met online.

"CAN I GET MY MONEY BACK?"

The sad answer is no. Once you send money to a scammer, then there's no way to retrieve it. At this point it's worth pointing out another scam that a scammer may approach you with an offer to get your money back for you. This is called a recovery scam, and here's how it works. The scammer realises that you're no longer going to send money to the character he used to scam you in the first place. It's time to bring another character into play. This one will write to you and claim to be able to get your money back. Who wouldn't want that, right? After all, it was your money in the first place before it was stolen. They may claim to be from the police, the EFCC, the Nigerian government or even the FBI. They may even make their emails appear to be from these organisations. In this digital age it's easy to fake anything. So they write to you and offer to get your money back, but explain that you will need to pay some small fees. Procedures need to be followed, bribes need to be paid and all this costs money. Of course there are no bribes to pay, nor are there any procedures to be followed in order to get your money back because the scammer has no intentions of giving your money back and has likely already spent it. All you're doing is giving the scammer more money and throwing good money after bad. Don't be fooled by anyone claiming to be able to get your money back, especially if they ask you for more money to be able to do it.

**"MY SCAMMER PROMISED TO PAY BACK MY
MONEY IF I REMOVE MY REPORT ON HIM. WILL
HE?"**

Not a chance. Really, not a single chance. We can't say this enough. All he's doing is lying to you in order for you to remove his details and prevent others from seeing it. The only way he'd ever send your money back is if he gets another person to send it to you as part of his scam on them. The moment they realise they've been scammed, they have one person's details to take to the authorities. That's right, all he's done is implicate you in the scam of someone else. Once your money has been sent, then all you can do is accept the fact it's gone and you'll never see it again. Arrests are way too rare and scammers don't suddenly turn over a new leaf and send money back to people. The other stories you need to look out for as well are "Well I WAS trying to scam you originally, but after a while I genuinely fell in love with you and want to be with you" or "I'm only doing this to try to survive in this terrible country. If I didn't do this then I'd starve". Let's look at this with objective eyes. He's paying to spend hours in an internet cafe, which is far from cheap, likely has a phone so he can talk to you and he claims he's starving. Really, do you believe that? Once you realise he's a scammer, treat everything he's ever said to you and ever will say to you as lies solely for the purpose of trying to part you from your money.

"HELP! MY SCAMMER IS THREATENING ME/MY FAMILY! WHAT CAN I DO?"

If a scammer does find out that he's posted on an antiscam site such as RomanceScam, then he'll try everything he can to get the report removed. All his threats are nothing but empty words. He's not going to hunt you down. He's not going to fly to your country. He's not even going to leave the safety and anonymity of his internet cafe. He may make a few threatening phone calls to you, but once he realises he's not getting anywhere then he'll give up and move on to his next "meal ticket" rather than waste even more of his time on you knowing that there's no way you'll send any more money. Scammer threats are all bark and no bite. We have known instances where scammers have attempted to post up compromising photos sent to them by victims, but any decent site worth its salt will remove them as soon as they're spotted.

Here we include a recent conversation from the romancescam.com forum.

Post by digitallove on Sun May 30, 2010 1:55 pm

Oh no... I think i'm in deep trouble. I thought this game is over, apparently not!

The investigation team sent me an email with a video of me. They are blackmailing me, asked for US\$10,000! if i fail to cooperate with them, they will post it everywhere and will ruin my reputation. I'm devastated and panicked when i read the email...

I called him, asking him to tell his friend to stop. But he played dumb. I even told him that i knew he's in malaysia and i know his address. For a while, he was quiet. And he asked me "then who am i? Do you know who i really am? If you know then why did you love me?".

He wouldn't listen even if i told him that i don't want my money back. I just want this to end. I was pissed off, that i told him "oh, i have an idea. Maybe i should just call the police in

malaysia and report this". Then the phone hunged up coz i have no credits left. Darnnnnn... But i sent him an email, telling him to stop this as my last request, and i won't bother them anymore...

What should i do now??? I think i just made my life more miserable 😞 really need your help and advice now... I don't have much time, coz they only give me 24 hours to respond.

Please help meeeeeee....

really need your advice and help on this...

Post by Pinky on Sun May 30, 2010 2:12 pm

Don't panic. Think about this. They are and will continue to make threats because you are responding. You must stop. Read with your email provider how to block their emails. Don't answer their phone calls. Change email addresses and even phone numbers if you must.

Don't tell them what you know either! Play dead. I promise you they will go away. They won't post anything on you. It will leave a digital trail that could lead police to them and there's nowhere for them to post porn (if that's what they have) that anyone you care about would see anyway. Besides, anything posted without your permission must and will be removed by the web host upon your request.

Recently a member here had her pictures posted by her scammer, who claimed she was the scammer. Truth was on her side and her pics were pulled immediately.

This will all go away soon if you let it.

Post by digitalove on Sun May 30, 2010 2:35 pm

you're right Pinky... i got panicked, and after i saw the video i just instantly buy a credit and called him, coz i know that video was taken by him.

here's the email that they sent me:

You have been declared member of triads underworld of online private shows and we have prove of your operations, pictures and videos that was captured by our devices and we would spread your whole news to all countries in Asia, Europe and America.

We have set up a group police and FBI squad that would hunt you down for the rest of your life if you do not cooperate with us.

You are hereby sanctioned to pay the sum of (\$10,000.00) to our network of investigators or we would reveal your secretes.

Failure to meet up with our demands, we would start doing the followings:

1. We would put you on the FBI and Interpol watch and track list.
2. We would advertise you on every Indonesian online network.
3. We would advertise your mode of operation to YouTube Indonesia.
4. We would make sure you can't travel overseas to any part of Indonesia or outside Indonesia.
5. We would make sure you don't get any international work or task.
6. We would post your mode of operations to all companies and factories all over Indonesia and Asia.

However we are enclosing a copy of your activities that was captured by one of our devices so you could see for your self.

Therefore, you have been given an automaton of 24hours to comply before we start sending your information of killing your reputations and life to the world.

Information on how to remit funds would be provided to you by our Network Department Office, Texas United State of America shortly after your feed back.

Don't panic, we would only reveal your secretes if you are not cooperating.

Garry Nelson.
Cracking Crime

i'm using yahoo email to correspond with them. i'm not using it for personal or work coz i have other email accounts and this yahoo account i only use it to chat. is there any way to cancel my account in yahoo? at least just to let them know that my email account is no longer available. or maybe i should set up a fake vacation response? lol

i'm just so scared now, and don't want my parents to know anything about this. i don't want to disappoint them...

Post by Pinky on Sun May 30, 2010 2:55 pm

What a bunch of nonsense. There is absolutely no way any legitimate national or international law enforcement agency would take anything coming from a notoriously abused and misused IP address, from known criminals, posing as Americans, using atrocious English grammar and spouting utter nonsense, seriously! You are safe. Stop worrying.

Post by digitalove on Sun May 30, 2010 4:23 pm

well yeah, i couldn't stop laughing when i read "secretes" :))

so i deleted my yahoo account, but i forgot to note the IP address (DUH!)

all i can do now is pray that this will be over soon... i hope he's not gonna call me, but i'm planning to end the subscription of my mobile phone.


thanks so much Pinky... if it's not bcoz of you i think i would have gone crazy and recklessly respond to their emails and keep calling him :)

Some people see a death threat as nothing but the proof they rattled the scammer's cage. Some even actively attempt to receive them. Check out this example.

Post by duckhunter on Mon Oct 04, 2010 8:45 pm

Got my first "badge of honor" today. 

"watch you have three days to live"

Well I'd better go ... only have 2 1/2 days left to get my affairs in order 

It's not just the people that report the scammers that get threats. We have a section of our forum called "Mugu says..." to show everyone the pathetic threats made to the forum, site and staff by these scammers in a desperate attempt to get their reports removed. Here are some examples.

YOU SUCH A FOOL TO HAVE DONE THAT MAKE A POST OF ME.OMG, YOU REALLY THE WORST AMERICAN HAVE SEEN IN MY LIFE, SELF CENTERED,SELF FISH, AND FAT. YOU A BITCH FOR REAL YOU ARE, IF YOU DOUBT SOMEONE DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DO THINGS. YOU SAID YOU MEET ME FOR ONLY FIVE DAYS, GOSH. I HAVE MY ID, PROVES TO SHOW THAT AM FOR REAL BUT YOU NEVER WANTED THEM AND I LET YOU BE BUT YOU FEEL THE WAY YOU WANT TO DO IT IS TO MAKE A FOOL OF YOURSELF, YOU CRAZY DIEING SINGLE MOM WHY ON EARTH WOULD A MAN WANT TO SPEND IS LIFE WITH A BITCH LIKE YOU AND I DO KNOW YOUR TYPE THEY CLAIM TO BE SO SMART THEY RUN AWAY FROM GENIE BEINGS AND RUN INTO SCAMS YOU ARE A FOOL, A BIG ONE. DID I BEG YOU. WHEN YOU SAID I STOP I STOPPED SO WHAT PROMPTED YOUR FAT BITCH TO GO WRITE A STORY ABOUT ME BEEN A SCAM. FOR YOUR CONCERN NOW AM BACK HOME IN LONDON, A WOMAN WHO IS NOT READY TO SHARE ANY OF HER THINGS WITH A MAN IS NOT THE EVE YOU SEARCH FOR. I WILL GET BACK YOU BITCH SOON, AM SUIING YOU AND YOUR FUCKING SITE AND I PROMISE TO DO YOU HARM RIGHT HERE WITH OUT MOVING, YOU WILL DIE SOON. BET IT. FOOL GO POST THIS ALL NOW OKAY.

AM ON ROMANCE SCAM TOO NOW, YOUR PICTURE WOULD BE EVERYWHERE SOON AND YOU HAVE TO REFUND MY £30,000 I SENT TO YOU. FOOL, CHEAP BLACK MAIL. SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO FOR ME NOT TO COME GET MY MONEY BACK. FOOL

I have never in my life seen such ugliness and outright disrespect as I am seeing here!!

🙄 I KNOW this man and he is a fine outstanding person!! Why would ANY of you come on here and try to make him look bad!! You are just WRONG about this man!! 😡 He is of good character and a wonderful man! I pray to God you take him off this site and STOP putting dirt on his good name!! 🙄 Please tell me where do you get your information from?? You owe it to him to tell where you get your informaion from!! This is the man i plan to spend the rest of my life with 😡 and I WILL NOT have you spreading vicious gossip against his name when you have NO proof 🙄 of anything you say against him!! I would trust this man with my life 😡 and am trusting him with my spiritual matters as well becuz he is a GOOD, God fearing man of excellant leadership!! Are you someone who is jealous 😡 and hateful trying to hurt a good honorable person such as i know him to be?? 🙄 He is a man of integrity and a good soul. Be ashamed of yourselves for doing this to my wonderful darling Johnson!! He has more quality in his little finger than you have in your entire persona!!

🙄 How dare you try to bring shame to one of Americas finest, bravest men??? You are dispicable to the uttmost and truely in league with the 🙄 advisory.!! You NEED to REMOVE his name and photograph from this wicked site and post an apology for doing this!! What a wretched spirit you must have!! My words cannot say enough good things about my fiancee 😡 and also I cannot use the words it would take to tell the one that put this lie on here how wretched you are for doing this!! May God continue to bless my man johnson & I 🙄 and may God have mercy on this sites soul 🙄 🙄!!

You haven't seen anything yet.... I am ME and can get anyone I want...

watch you back... I am coming for you and you will so wish for a faster death

Hi, it's me Irina

All of you crazy here!

About what money you speak here ?

You know, what means word SCAMER?

GOOD LUCK LOSERS!!!

What people have gone in this world. It was quite insolent.

Who said that I scammer?

Tell MacJoJo, tell me IceFM, where did you get my photos?

Do not believe them, they just intrigue me.

idalarsen1980@yahoo.dk is my email, I am not a scammer.

fuck you

Death threats and legal threats from scammers are all part and parcel of running a forum like ours. The forum staff are all still alive, well and not in prison despite dozens of threats between us. We all have our "death threat" stories to tell and laugh about. There's even a great 5 minute video of death threats all from the same scammer. You can find it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6yjsFXPBdk> but be warned that you'll spend the next few weeks telling everyone "You will dieeee!!"

HOPELESSROMANTIC'S STORY.

I am a new member of this Dating Romance Scam website as of today, 10/1/10 and I feel the need to talk to someone about this because I don't know how I am going to get through this entire thing - I really do not have anyone close to me that can give me support now - I have always had an issue with trusting new people and it normally takes me quite some time to really open up to someone. I had met Eric Antonio on SeniorPeopleMeet.com last May 2010 and we have talked on the phone (he has the most wonderful Italian accent) e-mailed and chatted online for hours on a daily basis. He was so very, very sweet and loving and the most romantic man I had ever met in my entire life and he always seemed so concerned about me and even sent me flowers to my office on my birthday on July 8, 2010 - when they were delivered there were 2 beautiful arrangements - not just 1-----he was online with me that day because he was so concerned that they told him they had been delivered but I had not received them yet.....he was very heartbroken because he had wanted it to be a surprise for me but finally had to tell me that the flowers were coming when they were not delivered on time. He told me several times a day how much he loved me and could not ever imagine not having me be a part of his life for even 1 day.....he wanted to marry me and wanted us to be one happy family now.....I have never had any children so the thought of having a 5 year old daughter was going to be very challenging for me but I thought I would be able to handle it with Eric's support. I have wired him money 5 times and the last time was just recently on September 7, 2010 - I had been laid off from my job at Macy's Headquarters here in Mpls, MN for 2 years after they closed this Northern Division Headquarters and my job along with all 600 Buyers (total of 1200 people were laid off) went to New York and was combined with Macy's East Division. I have had a lot of financial issues since then and am working part time now but not making much money.....every single dollar went to Eric because of all the issues going on with him in Nigeria.....this is money that I should have paid my rent with and now will probably be evicted from my apartment because I am still behind in my rent and Eric promised to take care of my back rent and pay me back all other money I wired to him when he arrived here. I am so heart broken and sad now and I just do not even want to go on living without Eric in my life.....I still love him so much and I have not been able to eat or sleep since I found out about this scam on this site.....

"I FEEL SO STUPID."

There's no need to feel that way. Scam survivors are usually guilty of nothing more than being naive in the ways scammers work and too trusting of people. A lot are well educated, have good jobs and are kind hearted. The scammers rely on this. Unlike the traditional 419 scams, there's often no monetary gain to be had by sending the money. The gesture is nothing more than one person wanting to help another out of a bad situation they claim to have found themselves in. It's the same with the charity scammers. They rely on the giving nature of others in order to steal from them. In most cases, the only thing the survivors expect back are love and affection. If that makes them stupid, then the rest of the world is stupid along with them. Get the notion of being "stupid" out of your head. You were scammed not because you're a stupid person, but because the scammer exploited the fact you're a good natured person.

"IS THERE ANY WAY TO GET MY SCAMMER ARRESTED?"

This is hardly ever possible. Scammers usually operate from internet cafes, using fake identities and anonymous cell phone numbers. This means that it would be impossible to prove that the person was at that particular computer at that exact time sending out the emails. They have to be caught in the act for any kind of legal action to be taken. Like all online criminals, they can hide extremely well. They often live in corrupt societies who do little to stop crime and often glorify those that do well from scamming.

You can and should file a police report however. Be aware that our local police forces have no jurisdiction in other continents, but they will keep a record of the crimes on file. You should also contact the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Africa by going to <http://www.efccnigeria.org>

GILRAEN'S STORY.

I have been scammed twice in 2007 and posted my story somewhere on the forum, on my both scammers sections. Sorry, actually can't remember the name of my second scammer on the forum (he pretended to be Jeff Davidson, but the Jeff Davidson in here is another guy 😂), the first one was called Bryan Lionel.

Since September 2007, Bryan tried several times to contact me, but got not news anymore since I blocked him on Yahoo. His so called best friend Mark tried once to ask me money there are few months ago, but I never replied. 🙄

Except my scammers, I've got some other men who wanted to meet me and ignored me, but they never asked me for money. I met one guy from my town in the begin of this year, but he ignored me the day after. 😞

To change my mind, I went to the USA for my holiday in May/June and I was back as another person - well, in a spiritually (I'm a Christian woman and my scammers pretended to be Christians, as I 'met' them on some Christian dating websites 🙄) and social way, if I can say. I'm still in a very good mood, still smiley and have fully accepted my life, nobody or nothing could make think to people that I'm not really well. I understood that myself in the Summer. In fact, I've a lot of desires for my future, I've a lot of things to do at home, but don't have the energy or the thing I need to do it. 😞 We could think that I'm lazy - well, I'm lazy a little bit, I've to confess - but the problem is deeper than that. I talked with some people around me and they all said that I'm in a depress time, even if we can't see it. 🙄

I still have some financial problems actually (someone paid a part of my trip to the States), that not really help me to be honest with you. 🙄 Some friends still tell me that I was stupid because I gave money to my scammers, what add again some difficulties for my psychic health. I still put myself down when I think of men - I still say that never a man will love me, as that never happened in my life. 🙄 I've also noticed that I can't watch men as before to 'meet' my scammers and the other ones. Before that, I was easily attracted by men, wanted

absolutely to be loved, to be cuddled or hugged by men (but never had something), but not now anymore. Just to think of that, that would make me run away from men. 😬 I've some friends among men, but couldn't imagine one seconde of something more, I don't want something more, that scare me to meet a bad man. 😬 I'm on Myspace since July, got a lot of men who tried to get in touch with me by telling that I'm beautiful, etc, but I simply delete their message and never reply them.

Well, all this to say that actually, I'm very happy to be single and have no man in my life. I still have the feeling that I'm the only one to have those psychologic difficulties, cause of those scammers. I know I'll be fully healed one day, but actually, my apartment isn't really cleaned, I'm into pain because I haven't the energy to take my medicine, etc... Well, that's still a hard time even if 2008 was much better than 2007. 😬 I think we all need a lot of time to fully recover after been scammed, that's not so easy to trust someone after a so bad experience.

"CAN I CONVERT MY SCAMMER AND MAKE HIM STOP SCAMMING?"

It would be like asking a leopard to change his spots. Scammers will often claim to have turned over a new leaf/repented and given up scamming/seen the error of their ways, but it's nothing more than a new set of lies. Remember that these people come from a culture steeped in many years of believing scamming is a good thing, even that God is blessing them by giving them a well paying "maga". Telling them they should stop isn't going to make them stop. All it will do is make them tell you they've stopped as they carry on scamming others and hoping to eventually persuade you to help them "keep on the straight and narrow with a little financial help" if they keep telling you what you want to hear. Out of all the cases we've ever heard on the site, there are practically no 100% proven instances of a scammer giving up scamming and becoming an honest person.

DOC'S STORY.

Seven years ago, I received a call from my best friend, I was living in Seattle at the time and he was back East, but we talked several times a month. He was like my brother, I have known him since I was nine, so we always stayed close. He started to ask me about Russia, and how he met a woman there via Internet and was making plans to visit her there in the fall, and since I have been there could I tell him how to make arrangements. We talk for a while about Russia and our annual Sailing trip we had coming up, and how He would tell me more about this woman over a cold beer during our trip. We said our Goodbyes and hung up. Looking back that was the defining moment of my last five years.

During our trip, he showed me pictures and talk about how much he could not wait to Visit her that fall, how she talked about marriage and moving here with him. He seemed Very happy and I was happy for him and wished him all my best.

The months following his visit to Russia, he was very distant to me and even cancelled our vacation that year. I knew he was spending a lot of money with lawyers and paper work to bring her here. I did not know about all the red tape you have to go through at the time, and it was none of my business so I just told him to keep in touch and let me know what was going on.

Over the next year or so, he worked on getting everything in order, and even went to Russia again to visit her. He called me in the fall of the following year and asks me to be his best man. We talk about dates and my work schedule, so I could fly home for the wedding and about how glad he was it was almost over, and to be honest so was I Even though I was four thousand miles away, I was getting tired of listening to All the problems he had to get her here. About six weeks later he calls me and Tells me they were putting off wedding do to her father being sick. And her not being Able to arrived on set date, I told him just let me know when everything was worked out and do not worry.

The next few months are a blur to me, It seemed when we talked it was always something

Keeping her from coming here, I was supportive like any good friend, but I had my own problems and deadlines at work, so I never really thought too much about it. Time went on and it seems to be the same old story. Then I received a call from him saying she was coming the following week, I was happy for him, told him when they set date let me know, He said he would keep me informed and how he could not wait for me to meet her.

I tried calling him the following week but got his machine, I thought they were just getting to know each other and he was busy with her showing her around and doing all things that two people in love do, and he would call when the newness wore off and He had time.

I received a call one evening from a voice I had not heard from for a long time it was My friends Grandmother, She told me that he had killed himself. He had no sibling, and was raised by his grandmother, she told me I was named, as the executor of his will, and asked me what I wanted to do. My heart sank, I felt sick, but I made plans to go home And make the necessary arrangements, or at least understand why he would do this When he was so happy the last time, we talked. After the funeral, I started to go through All that was needed to settle his estate. Which anyone who has been there knows is a very big pain in the butt; I started seeing bills and WU Receipts, everything was pointing to his future wife. Over the next couple of months of going over his assets, computer files, And bills. He was broke. Losing his house, and behind in his car payments. Credit cards were at limit. He was in a financial mess. I thought where was the woman who was supposed to be here. I started reading letters and going through his computer and everything became known over the next couple of months that she had no intention of Marrying him. She not only put off coming to him twice but also left him at airport twice. Overall, from what I could gather, and prove, he had given her well over thirty Thousand dollars in a little over two years. Not including the fees, it took to arrange to bring her here. Whether it was a broken heart or the fact he was broke, I lost my Brother That night and no money in this world could replace that. Over the next few months, I started my own relationship with this Gold Digger using her info I had and as the story goes, she was everything I thought she was, and as I later found out had three people she was going to marry at the same time she was with my Friend. Her name was Uporova Victorovna She said she was from Kazan but I found it was a moscow address as for the pics and emails I wish I had known of this place It has been so long I have long since deleted.. But I met her and saw her face to face.. as for the 3 other men Yes they found out about her before any one was

hurt. After I figured out everything about her, I needed to know for sure if it was true about her. Or just my anger and pain from my loss

Therefore, I took the info I had open a paid account where he found her at, started to e-mail her. We started to talk and she was very open and sweet. Very personal and warm written letters, after a week or so she wanted me to call her, so I did, then we would talk on ICQ while she was at work. She asked me if I had a cam and we did that. This went on for about a month before she told me she loved me. I was sick to my stomach. She never asked for money, until I brought up being in Russia. If I can remember, it was just a few days after I told her she said it would cost her 350 dollars for trip to Moscow from Kazan to see me when I arrived. Time went on and we continued this so-called relationship. She asked me for money several times during the next month or so before my trip. I told her I will send her the 350 to come visit me, but until we met I would not send her more. She agreed kindly and was very excited about our meeting. I felt like a little fish on a big f***** hook. The night we met was very scary for me. I felt like

I was in High school getting ready for a big football again. I did not know if she would show, if I was out 350 bucks, but I really did not care about the money. She was going to meet me in Hotel Lounge. Therefore, I went down early, had a few drinks, and waited. Then I saw her walk in. I was very impressed and if I did not know better would have fallen in love also, she was very elegant, and looked better than her pics. She had perfect English a lot better than the phone conversations we had. Which later made me think?

It was not her on phone. Nevertheless, as we had drinks and talked, I started to tell her about my friend who fell in love with Russian woman and was going to get married, she was very focused on my story, and smiled a lot, Grab my hand, listen to my every word.

I finished my story as I told all of you. (But just a basic version)

Told her that he had all the arrangements to bring her to America, took care of her in Russia, and she left him, Told her about his death. I knowing she did not know the man she said she loved a couple years back really did.

She was very sadden, said she knew now why I was so shy about her, and her love.

However, told me to look (I am here right here with you.) I will never forget those words She said as long as I live. I looked at her, Reached in to my Suit Pocket and handed her a Envelope. She smiled and her eyes sparkled, I think she thought it was giving her money As she opened it, I will never forget the look in her face. There were two Pictures in that Envelope, One of my friend and her in Moscow, and one of his gravestone, along with a request for Visa paper with there names on it.

I sat there for a few. Staring at her face, I then stood up and went to the bar area where my co-workers were. She sat there for about a minute and walked out.

I want everyone to know who reads this. That I have put this story to help people So they will not fall into the same thing as my Friend did.

I would like to say thanks for reading I posted it to help people, as for wanting revenge!! It was more then wanting to hurt her, She was a professional Dater, and deceived, my friend... Yes I was angry, hurt, I just wanted her to know, her to feel, one moment of my hurt. I saw in her eyes what I needed to see, after several Kalinkins (Russian Beer) I was at peace with myself. I do not think it hit home with her at all, she just got caught..

"WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT THE SCAMMERS MORE?"

We realised a long time ago that trying to fight scammers is a losing battle. For every one person trying to fight them, there are likely dozens or even hundreds of scammers and the problem is only getting worse. We're seeing new areas popping up as scammer black spots all the time. The most recent one is Malaysia, where West Africans travel arrive on student visas and run internet scams instead of ever setting foot in a classroom. We know that the best offence is a good defence, and that involves making as many people aware of the scammers and how they work as possible. It's why we use sites like MySpace, FaceBook, Youtube as well as our own site, plus online radio shows and indeed this book you're reading right now to teach people about the scammers. Whenever we're contacted by the media for help we do all we can to give them what they need. One mention on a TV show or article in a newspaper will reach more people and cause more damage to the scammers than spending time and energy trying to get a single scammer arrested ever could. A lot of the people on the site are also baiters, but we'll discuss baiting later on in the book.

ELEPHANNE'S STORY.

I have quite a bit of knowledge about scamming and there are few who wanted to get close to me for free travelling or paid travels as my passport doesn't require visa to go to many of the countries. I'm not convinced of cos as i know good things doesn't come easy.

No matter how careful i am, i realized i'm in the process of being scammed from a uk guy who actually belongs to my neighbouring country. Throughout the mails, he even said he was being scammed twice and he is trying to find a wife, one who'll understand him and care for him.

I didn't really fall in luv with him until he said these three paragraphs

=====

hope u will be faithful. friendship and marriega is all about understanding each other,and how the two people settle there quarrels without any outsider getting to hear about it.when u know that u are wrong ,u need to say i am sorry ,also a man need's to say i am sorry to keep the relationship moving, soft words cools anger .

even when u are not wrong ,someone can say i am sorry.not that i am mister right and u are mister worng.when u see a family that is living happily , it does not mean they dont have problems and quarrels between them ,they normaly have quarrels , but they know how to settle there differences .

in the marriage ,if two people are very harsh it will not work out when they can not 4give one another , one of the two must be cool even they other is harsh ,to let peace rain in the family . that is how they can live together without problems here and there.

=====

He had made me realized that i've finally found a man who knows how to handle a relationship and this is the first time i'm falling in luv.

All broke when he wanted to send me stuffs, gold and diamonds which i'm not interested in. I asked him why didn't he fully paid the shipping charges and he said the company requires the receiver to pay. Today when we pm each other, i told him that i know about the truth and hope to get his name or pic, as well as the owner's info of the photos.

Infact i told him i don't hate him or blame him as this is the world we're living. That nobody wishes to do evil stuffs unless the environment forces them to or they just want the easy way out. I even told him things that only Lord and i know even though i know he's a fake. Bcos i really like chatting with him, he seems to understand me.

In the past, I've always thought that singlehood is good that i won't dab myself into relationship bcos of all the quarrels and other stuffs, but through this period of time. I do realized that the process of husband and wife working together to form a blissful family is the best.

I told him that i'm sad, bcos the first guy that i've accepted is one that never know my existence and we wouldn't even meet each other. Seems like he's feeling sorry for me too lol, he told me to cheer up. Tomorrow may be the last chat as i'll tell him that i know where his ip add is. i'll even tell him that he's welcome to visit me in singapore and i'll treat him meals.

No doubt my heart hurts and tears wouldn't stop, but i really learn something, that is my perspective view of love. and no! i will not pay for the parcel.

CHROMENEON'S STORY.

Long story cut short this one started in November met with Tatyana Sokolova from Kazan from the social networking site www.fubar.com/ a social networking site, to cut short to keep it relevant to this forum, I had some doubts but I needed to get more proof because the signs were only coincidental at this stage and i did some background checks and found nothing on her.. (but i fear i may have not listened to my instinct) ...now we not only has we talked on her mobile but also exchanged sms texts. i also had send MTCN information via this method and on the 7th of February, when she didnt turn up to the airport on third ocasion. I worked a week and half if that, I spent two weeks on my own and my housmate and cat holiday to chill coming to terms with it and seemed ok and.. I had not heard from Tatyana at all. not a work.... until i emailed her out of curiosity but when I had an e-mail from a completely different person, Margarita her friend emailed me to tell of her unfortunate accident in moscow and is presently with two broken legs.. Now that i know she was never in moscow at the moment i dont know ive not been upset as such bit disillusioned to an extreme, no shes in hospital she says margarita is helping her obtain money for her "surgery".

Im still emailing her, she is now suggesting i visit her in Russia, this of course can only be another trick and i have come up with some scenarios on what she could be planning and coming up with ideas on how i can delay this meeting and I hope to 1 bait her and drop her in it with the Russian authorities, if at all possible thats my plan.

BUT It still feels strange emailing her because, the feeling is different, instread of mailing her to show her my love im sending emails to waste her time and to trick a trickster...

I am more embarrassed to myself that I find that I was tricked by this lady who I realize is as smart as she claims to be. maybe i'm not a good judge of character and with work related stress and general low things are a bit difficult but im an OPTIMIST and im sure will get better. If you like redheads as I do, this is one to avoid, red spells danger in this case, not passion. (assuming the pictures are of her which they are not)

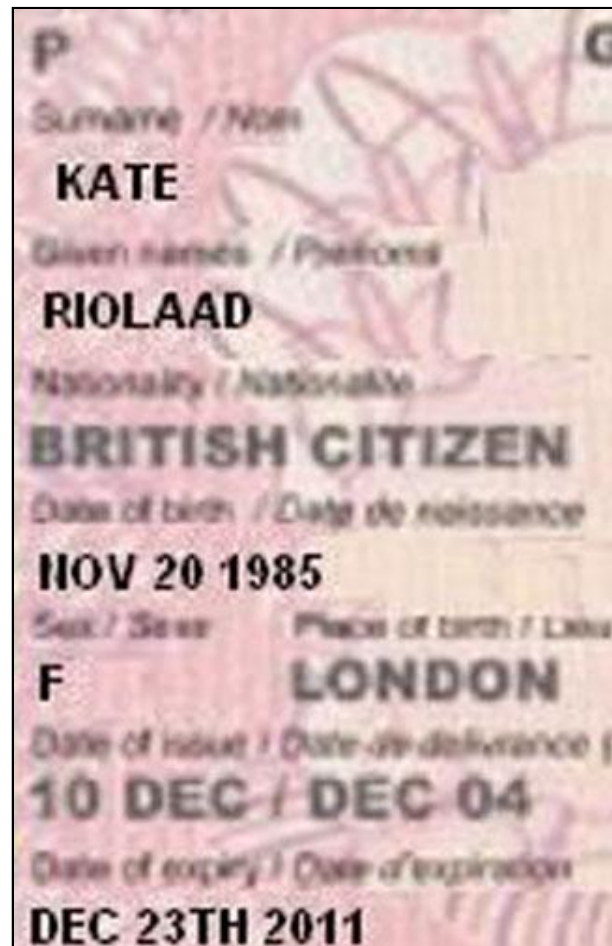
My post and scam information: <http://www.romancescam.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=12109>

For the first instance I didn't feel a lot when i realized that she's not going to turn-up as the flight from Munich on 7th february came half hour earlier than scheduled i was raring to see her but much to disappointment she didnt, i then spend my evening with a friend who id not seen in seven years, in a town is near Birmingham, UK the city she was supposed to have met. Two weeks of work then two weeks off doing little but chilling.. i find now that im back at work two weeks later im finding things rather difficult because of a slightly clouded perception of people in general so im trying to get assistance.. its not fair to classify all russians as bad certainly not all women but with my past experience its really changed something in me.. Still, this delayed reaction to the situation has meant is need to get possibly support of some kind and i have just recently posted all the information to Russian detective where i hope to take further steps....

Im not sure if i should continue to email her because on one hand it feels uncomfortable and the other hand, I want to get her caught ...or at least try.

"I WAS SENT A SCAN OF A PASSPORT. HOW CAN I TELL IF IT'S GENUINE?"

Very easily with a little practice. Look for things like the photo being "wrong". Maybe the background isn't neutral or looks too white (which would show that the background has been edited out) or there's no watermark. Is the pose right? Is the face too small or too large in the photo? Passports don't have photos with hair covering the face or a big grin on the person's face. Zoom in on the scan to see if there's any signs of tempering. Here's an example of a particularly badly altered passport. See how some of the writing has obviously been added in after and sections have been covered with other parts of the passport clumsily pasted in over it. Not all passports are this blatantly tampered with, but these are the common mistakes made by scammers.



DIDI'S STORY.

Here is my story about what happened when I was scammed and what I can remember based on the instant message logs (MSN and Yahoo) and e-mails. Some of this I wrote to the Swedish police in the beginning of February this year.

I don't need any comments about me being stupid, I know perfectly well myself that I am. It is a hard and expensive lesson to learn that in today's world you can't trust people. I am brought up to believe in people until they prove something else, now I have to do the opposite and it hurts. I don't like the way this world has turned.

I had never heard about so-called romance scammers. I knew about lottery scams and others, what here is called Nigeria letters, but this I had never heard about. Otherwise I would have been more on the alert.

I feel that I have to clean my mind and that is why I have written it down. After this I can cancel my Yahoo account and try to reconcile myself with all that has happened.

August 25th 2008 I first was contacted by the man who called himself Michael Tobi. This happened on a dating site called Quechup. He said that he was from Lancashire in England but grew up in Italy in Ravenna (he writes it as Revenna). Mother from Italy and father from England. Apparently his father died early and his mother moved back to Italy. He said he was married but his wife died of cancer and that he has a 15-year-old son living with Michael's mother in Italy. He said he is a road constructor also working with the implementation of the projects.

He began to talk about - after a while - that he had a client who would send money to him as a payment for work Michael had done. But he needed help to transfer the money through a friend in England. This friend should buy some equipment for Michael. He wanted me to receive the cheque and I would pass money on to England. I never understood why, but after regretting for a while I agreed. I had talked with my bank about how a cheque should be written as a secure cheque and when it arrived it was written the wrong way and the bank refused to cash it. He started to threaten me and I got afraid of course.

September 10th 2008 I started talking with the man who calls himself David Mark – also

from Quechup. According to him he lives in London and owns a shoe company, retail and wholesale business. I am unable find it in the yellow pages of London. Has a daughter 6 years old (last time I talked with him she was 16), been married to an American woman from Oklahoma City. She is supposed to have died in a car accident 3-4 years ago and therefore he moved back to London. He says he is German from Frankfurt. He was very nice, but was also very quick to express his love to me and I thought it was a bit too much. But after a while we started to talk about that I would visit him. His agency would get cheap tickets for me, see below.

In the beginning of October 2008 I sent money to this agency (a woman, I don't want to tell her name, maybe she is also a victim) in Auburn, California, as payment for tickets. According to David Mark she takes care of all his flight reservations. Got an address to her which I also found through the White Pages. According to her the money never came to her, someone had taken them instead of her. Said that her computer probably been infiltrated by hackers. But according to MoneyGram the money was picked up by her. I checked it and then I sent their response to her, but I never got any answer from her.

David Mark said he was going to repay this money to me and also wanted to let a client to him send a cheque to me, so that I would take the money I would have and pass on the rest to him. I thought it was an extremely bad idea, but he did not give up. At this time, we planned that I would go to London and visit. I bought tickets and got a few days off from work. David was in Frankfurt with his sick mother, but would go home to London before I came.

When it arrived a cheque, it came in a registered letter from London and was posted in a Christmas card. At first I thought it was from David Mark's client and informed him. But then I asked Michael Tobi and he claimed it was his. I checked in all cases if the bank would cash it and they did not (see above). Of one reason or another it was the same amount of money on both cheques and I only got one!!?

Both claimed it was their cheque and both threatened me. David wanted me to borrow the amount of money to send to him. In the end, David said that he asked his client to stop the cheque and told me to go to hell. The trip to London was canceled and I had to cancel the tickets. I wish I had gone anyway, but I did not have money for hotel. My trip was built on the fact that I could stay with someone as a guest.

Then Michael began to threaten me. Said he had called police in both UK and Italy, as he was supposed to be citizen of both countries. In the end I was so scared that I never even thought of the idea to go to the police here in Sweden. I tried to reach the police in England since Michael Percy apparently would live in Burnley. Still have not received a reply from there, they must have thought there was a maniac who wrote.

Michael forced me to take a loan in my bank on half the amount of money that he claimed was his.

In the beginning of December 2008 I sent money to Michael Tobias, via Michael Percy in Burnley (address bb11 3qe), UK.

These threats made stupid me write a few lines to David Marks. I wish I had never done that. He contacted someone who he says work at Interpol. I got an e-mail from Jerry Stewart, who announced that he passed on the matter to EFCC in Nigeria. From there, I got an e-mail from a Harris Aboki who said he was EFCC agent.

Harris Aboki said, after a while, that he, or Interpol, found out that Michael Tobi's real name is Odewole Oluwatobi and to capture this man he wanted me to send money but in Odewole Oluwatobi's name, not in Michael Tobi's.

In the beginning of December 2008 I sent money to Michael Tobi / Odewole Oluwatobi in Nigeria (address 101 Billings Way, Ikeja, Lagos state, Nigeria, zipcode 23401). This on request of the so called EFCC-agent Harris Aboki to play with and capture MT / OO. To get money I had to take another loan. After a few days, I received mail from both Stewart and Jerry Harris Aboki that OO was arrested.

Harris Aboki claimed that I had to come to Nigeria for the trial against Michael Tobi/Odewole Oluwatobi. According to Harris Aboki it is customary for the witnesses, who goes to testify in Nigeria, to pay their travel and hotel, and then recoup the expenses when on place. I refused at the longest, but eventually I was persuaded to at least pay a portion. This on the advice of David Marks, whom I finally began to suspect playing under the same cover as the others. In the beginning of January 2009 I sent money to an address in Nigeria (Elemide Abiodun Phillips, 11 efcc building, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria, zipcode 23401).

I have only spoken with David Mark a few times after that, now (October 2009) I have blocked him off. However, I received phone calls, anonymous ones, from the same person in

Africa as I had talked with earlier. February 1st, I received a call from someone claiming to represent Michael Tobi, also sounding as the one I talked with earlier. He also said that he is in Sweden and that he has a mandate to force me to pay the money I sent to Olewode Oluwatobi instead of Michael Tobi. First I tried to pretend I did not understand English, but in the end I had to. I told him that the Swedish police know about everything and after that ended the calls.

I googled for the name Odewole Oluwatobi and found a Facebook page where a woman had a friend with this name as nickname (my friend XX aka Odewole Oluwatobi). It is a copy of a passport with a white man from Scotland. I copied the page and that was good, as he is not on her page now.

I tried to contact EFCC a couple of times during this. I wanted confirmed that Harris Aboki was their agent. Well, they did not answer in time. I don't remember how long time it took, but they were not in a hurry – if I may say so!!!! I e-mailed back that I would have been much happier if they had answered in time.

All this makes me feel really bad from time to time. I could have had so much more fun for the money I pay every month. Not only the loans but also the saved money. They caught me when I was mentally in a bad shape and I was not able to think clear. The worst is that I was not even in love, at least not in Michael.

I have come across a couple of scammers after this, one I have reported on RomanceScam. But now I am not so easy too fool and I quit when I feel something is wrong.

"HOW CAN I FIND THE REAL PERSON IN THE PHOTOS TO LET THEM KNOW THAT SCAMMERS ARE ABUSING THEIR PICTURES?"

Scammers steal photos from anywhere they can. It could be a modelling site, a social networking site or they could even use photos of previous victims. There are several ways of trying to find the person behind the pictures being used by a scammer. Firstly, on the romancescam.com forum you'll find that a lot of the threads have stars next to them. These indicate either the photos have been identified or that one or more scammer using the photos has been identified. If you use www.scamdigger.com and search for your photo there, you may find that it's already listed in a thread that has the real owner identified. We have a short video tutorial that will talk you through using ScamDigger at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDjoS2fbrH8>

The second option you have is to see if the photos are listed on tineye.com and if any of the links lead back to the real identity of the person. One thing you should be aware of when doing this is that leads are often to other fake profiles set up by other scammers using the same photos, so not every link if any at all will lead to the real person behind the photos.

LEEANN_MARK'S STORY.

HI THERE EVERYONE I HAVE JUST BEEN SCAMMED BY EDWARDMOORE2000@YAHOO.COM HE SAYS HE WAS FROM THE UK BUT NOW I BELIEVE THAT HE WAS ACTUALLY FROM NIGERIA, I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING TO THIS GUY, AND NOW I HAVE A MAN THATS SAYING THAT HE COULD HELP ME OUT IF I SEND HIM MONEY ALSO HE GOES BY THE NAME DAVIDSONJONES_04.THANK GOD THAT I HAVE DONE A SEARCH ON THIS GUY AND COME ACROSS THIS WEB SITE I AM SO GRATEFUL NOW I KNOW THAT HE WAS GOING TO SCAM ME AGAIN, MY GOD HOW STUPID CAN I BE I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING TO BE WITH THE GUY FROM THE UK I SOLD ALL OF MY BELONGINGS TO BE WITH HIM AND NOW MY CHILDREN ARE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR AND NOW THIS SCAMMER DAVIDSONJONES_04 IS TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING TO ME, OH MY GOD I AM SO SICK OF THIS HAPPENING TO ME, PLEASE THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING THAT US WOMEN CAN DO TO TRY AND GET OUR LIVES BACK AND OUR TRUST IN PEOPLE. PLEASE IM WARNING ALL YOU LADIES OUT THERE TO BE CAREFUL. AFTER SEEING THIS I WILL NO LONGER BE MAKING CONTACT WITH EITHER DAVIDSONJONES_04@YAHOO AGAIN OR EDWARDMOORE2000@YAHOO AS I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING ALREADY. MY POOR KIDS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE SUFFERING HERE, PLEASE THERES GOT TO BE SOMETHING THAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THESE PPL. WE NEED OUR LIVES BACK AND OUR MONEY THAT WE HAVE LOST TO THESE SCAMMERS, YEAH RIGHT IF THATS EVER GOING TO HAPPEN.

"I SENT MY SCAMMER PERSONAL DETAILS. HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT?"

Ok, let's deal with each thing individually. Did you send your bank details? If you did then it's safer to close the account and get a new one to prevent the scammer from simply withdrawing all your money. If you sent a scan of your passport, then phone up your country's passport service and report it as lost or stolen. You'll have to buy a new one, but the cost is much less than the damage that could potentially be done by the scammer with your passport details. If anyone checks the old passport then it'll show up as being stolen. If you gave your address, then refuse any parcels you're not expecting. Scammers will often use addresses of previous victims to have goods sent to in overpayment scams, or when asked for an address for a money transfer. If you do receive something you know isn't meant for you then take it to your local police station. If you keep it then you risk being implicated in the scam. If you sent your photos then keep an eye on the various antiscam sites to see if they're being used, as well as checking both tineye.com and scamdigger.com from time to time. If you show any sites that your photos are being used fraudulently then most will remove them and close the account of the person using them. Finally, go to your local police station and report the fact you were the victim of a scammer and are concerned your identity may be used by the scammer. They likely won't be able to do anything other than offer sympathy and give you the contact details of other anti scam organisations they think may be able to help you, but your report will be formally saved should anyone try to use your identity as part of a scam.

ITHAPPENED2ME2'S STORY.

OK, so I am probably in denial, but I have to ask if there is any chance on God's green earth I could be corresponding with a widower who has a son? Met a man on JDate. Searched his name, email, picture uploads, email headers... everything checks out as not a scammer. He claims he is a widower with a 5 year old son who I have heard playing in the background on the phone. RED FLAG NO 1. He says he is an engineer (mechanical/designs off shore oil rigs) with a masters from Johns Hopkins but his grammar and spelling are lacking. RED FLAG NO 2. He went to Nigeria to try to get his license to drill, not just design the rigs, RED FLAG NO 3...and then he is coming with his son (who he couldn't leave behind in Maryland where he is - allegedly - living) to see me in California. He claims to be Italian descent and does have an Italian accent. He has offered to send ME money because he knows I am unemployed. We have been talking on the phone, emailing and IM-ing for two months.

MUCHO MISC RED FLAGS: thinks he is in love with me, wants to marry me, is excited to make a family with me and my son... blah blah blah

AND THE BIGGEST RED FLAG: said his wife died during childbirth. I know I know... you're already shaking your heads and rolling your eyes. I'm an idiot. The only thing is, he knows I have no money whatsoever... so what's the point in talking to me 3 times a day and writing and IM-ing... we talk constantly and wherever he says he is, the noise in the background sounds legitimate.

I'm so sad. It was nice to think someone could love me in that over-the-top, Shakesperean way 😞 I guess men like that just don't exist. I have been dating - primarily online - for 7 years since my divorce. This is the best experience I have ever had... and it's all been a sham, hasn't it? 😞 Help? 🙄

"MY FRIEND/FAMILY MEMBER WAS SCAMMED. WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE?"

This really needs to be answered in two parts.

For those still in the clutches of their scammer, the key words to remember are patience and understanding. If you charge in with accusations then you could drive them further from you and closer to their scammer. Try to find out if the pictures have been used elsewhere, or if the scammer's email address or sections of their emails show up on search engines. If they do then gently ask them to search the details themselves, "Just to be 100% sure, because you really can't be too careful these days". They're more likely to believe their own searches than simply having someone tell them outright. There's also a great self test they can do at <http://www.romancescam.com/cgi-bin/scamtest.cgi> which will tell them if they're likely to be dealing with a scammer. Money is usually requested by Western Union or MoneyGram. Ask them to search "moneygram scam" or "western union scam" as well as "romance scam".

With those that have realised they were scammed, the two key words are forgiveness and understanding. Scammers can make a person act completely out of character. They hook them in totally, often swearing them to silence in order to keep them away from people who would look at it from the outside and see it for what it is. You're likely to be hurt and angry by this, but the most important thing is that they're safe. People have been held for ransom and even killed after meeting their "true love". Others have killed themselves after realising they were scammed. If you believe in God then thank him for keeping the person safe. If you believe in fate then tell yourself that it could have been a whole lot worse, and you could have lost them altogether. Let them know how happy you are that they're still with you, despite everything. They're going to be embarrassed, hurt and angry, both at themselves for falling for the scam and at the scammer for doing this to them. Let them know that you understand and that you're there for them. Offer to listen to their story, be a shoulder to cry on, but also be respectful of their wishes if they find it too difficult.. Time is a healer. It won't happen overnight, but it will happen.

BROOKS' STORY.

my name is Pat and I just joined...For 5 months now I have finally found this site and found out that a connection with a person name David Bliane has been scamming me..he started out with all the romantic stuff for several weeks saying he was a Marketer for his company and went to Nigeria at Port Harts court with shipments of goods and is now stuck there cause of the customs agents found some goods that were in his shipment that was illegal that he didn't know about and they were fining him some large sum of money and he didn't think he'd be stuck there so he didn't take any credit cards with him (which dah I should of suspected something then) but in denial that I was in I believed everything he told me..of course he couldn't get any monies to pay the fine and if I would help him out and loan him some money?..well lucky I am smart enough about MY money that I said 'No'..well this whole senario has been going on now for 4 months cause I am still in denial cause he's sending me all these 'love letters' and me believing everything...now he's having problems rounding up \$150 for his immagrations papers to be renewed...with all this he has a good friend that has been helping him pay some monies for his problems there and he's name is Nnamdi Nwamuo...so I typed it in the computer and found a letter from a member in this site about this guy and now the BELLS and WHISTLES have woke me up...these guys have a scam going..I THANK GOD that I have not given any money to this whole scam...anyway I have so much more I could tell you but the reason I am contacting you is because there has to be a way we can get these guys by laws and is it possible? I don't want anyone to have to go through the emotional 4 months that I have gone thru..Oh buy the way...I was so STUPID to be calling him and ended up with a \$144 phone bill from all the texting and calls just because I thought I loved this person...I want to give you his name...so other women will know it and not fall in there scam...Its DAVID BLIANE..And he will tell his sad story and he lost his wife..anyone can find him on Tagged.com like I did...nice looking with a 9 yr. old son...don't join the site but they can just go to Browse...then up top to Search then type his name in and his so called picture is there...I can't believe a women of my age (65) would fall for this crap now...I would like to help anyone if I can..

"HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE EMOTIONAL SIDE OF BEING SCAMMED?"

It is perfectly normal and even healthy to grieve. A love scammed victim has been emotionally wounded. Like all wounds it takes time to heal. Our minds do not forget pain quickly, but it does lessen over time, otherwise no woman would ever give birth a second time.

Tears do help. I believe they are cathartic. I read somewhere that a chemical analysis of tears under different circumstances shows that different proteins, chemicals, toxins and hormones are shed from the body, depending on why the tears are shed. This suggests to me that there's a reason for them. I don't think men should hold them back, either.

The Kubler-Ross model first introduced by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in her 1969 book "On Death and Dying", outlines a grieving process that I believe is beneficial to anyone who's been emotionally damaged. This would certainly apply to victims of romance scams, as well.

The stages are:

1. Denial: Example - "I feel fine."; "This can't be happening, not to me!"
2. Anger: Example - "Why me? It's not fair!" "How can this happen, I hate this world!" (Or I hate my scammer, or I hate the person who informed me, or I hate all scammers-Africans-Russians-liars, etc.)
3. Bargaining (Or rationalizing): Example - "Just let me live to see my children graduate."; "I'll do anything, can't you stretch it out? A few more years." I will give my life savings if... (Or, "Maybe if he confesses and asks my forgiveness, or maybe if he really loves only me, or maybe if he's not too bad looking or too young for me, or maybe he was forced to do what he did because of hardship . . .)

4. Depression: Example - "I'm so sad, why bother with anything?"; "I'm going to die . . . What's the point?" (Or, I'm really an idiot, stupid, dumb, etc. Certainly not worth anything to a real lover.)

5. Acceptance: Example - "It's going to be okay."; "I can't fight it, I may as well prepare for it." (I'm not going to let this happen to anyone else.)

I hope this helps a little. I wish I could offer more. The best advice I can give is to treat being scammed like a divorce or death, go a little nutty for a short while and then come back stronger and wiser.

"HOW CAN I FORGET MY SAD EXPERIENCE COMPLETELY?"

The short answer is that you can't. What happened to you was a major event in your life. You fell in love and you never forget those you fall in love with. Even though the person behind the photos and emails was nothing more than a scammer who was only interested in your money, the emotions you felt at the time were very real, both the good and the bad ones. It's also worth noting that, not only won't you ever forget it, but that you should never forget it. If we forget the mistakes we make in life, then we're likely to make them all over again.

ROMANDESCAM.COM

Romancescam.com was formed on November 2nd 2005, originally as a side site to add the details of any scammers who tried to join the datingmore.com dating site and were booted off due to their stringent checks. As the list grew, more sections were added to make the site what it is today - the largest and most influential online resource against romance scammers from around the world. It has gained media attention worldwide, and has been featured on several high profile TV programs over the years.

Today's romancescam.com is much more than simply a list. It features a forum with almost 28000 registered users and more than 17000 topics posted by its ever growing membership. It also houses an impressive album of photographs used by romance scammers. You can take a test to see what the likelihood is that the person you're talking to is a scammer. There's a blog with the details of all the scammers that were removed from www.datingmore.com. This currently features over 6000 fake dating profiles that have been added since its creation. The latest addition to the romancescam.com family is scamdigger.com, where you can upload the photographs sent to you by a scammer and let it search not only the romancescam.com image database, but also those of several other sites. This features a database of over 100,000 photos and is added to on a regular basis.

DUCKHUNTER'S STORY.

I just sent an email to a friend of mine who is a member here, and after I finished I had a good look at what I had written, and thought omg....look how my life has changed. I want to share it with others in hopes that those who recognize themselves here can at least make decisions that are driven by choice, and not only emotion. This is part of the email:

But I don't think I will ever forgive my asshole scammer for taking away my belief in humanity and goodness, so besides trying to support other victims, I suppose in a way I continue this fight as a victim. I will never get back what i lost -- innocence and hope and belief in possibility of finding someone to love.....i will never stop fighting the scumbags who have stolen that from me. Yet I don't hate them. My friends think I'm a nut for being so dedicated to this cause, and I can't even begin to explain to them why it's so important to me.

I just had a long chat with the other one who i'm baiting.....now the poor kid's laptop is on order for at least ten days (lol), it is so tempting to tell him that i know everything but he hasn't paid enough yet for all he's done so i won't. also, i think i have some real photos of my original scammer and i would love to just throw one up in our chat, but he also hasn't paid enough. there is a certain feeling of power, but i won't get to really feel it until they have paid and paid and paid, not just for what they've done to me (which is relatively minor), but for what they do to people every single day. i often cry while i'm trying to support victims because it just isn't bloody fair and so often there isn't anyone close to them who will understand. and that's why i have to keep doing this.

This is among the most valuable websites on the internet, and I would hate to think that this post might send any of the helpers away, but more importantly, I wonder how many of us are still hurting and don't really know that we are?

I'm not going anywhere and I will always be here with an ear and a shoulder. If we weren't such good, caring, compassionate people we wouldn't be here in the first place.

HEXE'S STORY.

Like many people on this site I got scammed too. My scammer did step into my life in June and I was not prepared to what did happen. I did never hear before about romance scamming and just thought I did meet a nice guy. Same story like others can tell here. Comparing to many other stories I read on this site, I did not lose much money but this guy did strangle me in other ways. He made me feel guilty for going on vacations with my kids or spending a dime in anything else but helping him. He took my time and my energy by keeping me constantly on my notebook even on my vacation. He brought fears back in my life I thought I would never have again. He took my sleep and made me wandering like a ghost. He took my laughter and my joy and he did put some nasty pictures in my head about somebody I care for, been in deathly trouble even though he knew that this did really happen once in my life.

My kids got involved by seeing their mom in bad condition and not even knowing why and what to do. I feel mostly ashamed about the time I did not pay attention to them. I was there, did my duty but haven't been the mother I should have been.

And then, two months ago, I found this site. It opened my eyes and made me realize that I am a victim of a scammer and that I am for sure not the only one, who did make this experience. And I too have to say thank you for this entire people who run this site and put so much work and time in here to help people all over the world, who got scammed and to prevent people to get scammed. They all do a great job. This can't be mentioned often enough.

I tried to find my own way to deal with what did happen to me and baiting and playing around was just a part of it. It was my way of dealing with the pain. I believe all what happened won't change me a bit. I know who I am and I know what I am and I still believe in humans best as I am willing to be honest and straight; whether people do like it or not. And I won't make other people, men or women, paying for the punishment I went through by being scammed even though it does affect my life like it does affect anybody else's life.

I was looking for answers and was blessed to find some awesome friends on RS. For that I am thankful.

"WHAT ARE IP ADDRESSES AND WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?"

Whenever you send an email to someone, there's some extra information sent with it that the person receiving it won't see unless they know how to look for it. These are called the email headers, and it includes a lot more information than you'd expect. If you know what to do then you can find out the path the email took, if the email address shown is the real one or if it's faked, also the exact time and date it was sent. When you join the romancescam.com forum then we send you a welcome PM with several important links on the forum. How to find headers using the most common email clients is one of them. Each client is different, so the instructions for finding them on Yahoo mail is different to ones for finding them on Gmail and so on. We'll show you an example of what the email headers look like, but don't worry. Most of what you'll see is unimportant and can be ignored. We're only showing you so that you can know what they look like. Here we go, don't be afraid...

Delivered-To: XXXXXX@gmail.com

Received: by 10.204.76.17 with SMTP id a17cs50731bkk;

Fri, 6 Aug 2010 04:06:00 -0700 (PDT)

Received: by 10.216.26.145 with SMTP id c17mr743754wea.70.1281092760535;

Fri, 06 Aug 2010 04:06:00 -0700 (PDT)

Return-Path: <odily4ritaa@yahoo.co.uk>

Received: from n25.bullet.mail.ukl.yahoo.com (n25.bullet.mail.ukl.yahoo.com [87.248.110.142])

by mx.google.com with SMTP id s66si2166278weq.66.2010.08.06.04.05.59;

Fri, 06 Aug 2010 04:05:59 -0700 (PDT)

Received-SPF: neutral (google.com: 87.248.110.142 is neither permitted nor denied by best guess record for domain of odily4ritaa@yahoo.co.uk) client-ip=87.248.110.142;

Authentication-Results: mx.google.com; spf=neutral (google.com: 87.248.110.142 is neither permitted nor denied by best guess record for domain of odily4ritaa@yahoo.co.uk)

smtp.mail=odily4ritaa@yahoo.co.uk; dkim=pass (test mode) header.i=@yahoo.co.uk

Received: from [217.146.182.179] by n25.bullet.mail.ukl.yahoo.com with NNFMP; 06 Aug 2010 11:05:44 -0000

Received: from [87.248.111.151] by t5.bullet.mail.ukl.yahoo.com with NNFMP; 06 Aug 2010 11:05:59 -0000

Received: from [127.0.0.1] by omp208.mail.ukl.yahoo.com with NNFMP; 06 Aug 2010 11:05:59 -0000

X-Yahoo-Newman-Property: ymail-5

X-Yahoo-Newman-Id: 248888.94550.bm@omp208.mail.ukl.yahoo.com

Received: (qmail 87758 invoked by uid 60001); 6 Aug 2010 11:05:58 -0000

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=yahoo.co.uk; s=s1024; t=1281092758; bh=u1nEhdUKEy+mJbnm4pJNy76/bzoDhBCAAm3IMDNgQGA=; h=Message-ID:X-YMail-OSG:Received:X-Mailer:Date:From:Subject:To:In-Reply-To:MIME-Version:Content-Type;

b=G8NuAZr1bKTKjgXOmW9t2nc82TQ9waB0E+SDb968tm1tMB2w69BMXyuLJmvKAV FiyG9bK+0C7IFadhJngnuER+13xXV30qeNsGaw78cLkLkzcY2SJddO77nj/sK937jBL0Jn9 IKjXiGPYifBGjU+8S451IGdM4CKLQ6xB+UyNk=

DomainKey-Signature:a=rsa-sha1; q=dns; c=noaws; s=s1024; d=yahoo.co.uk;

h=Message-ID:X-YMail-OSG:Received:X-Mailer:Date:From:Subject:To:In-Reply-To:MIME-Version:Content-Type;

b=XMSOGtoSb0gFyCZIYE4MxuUYUuYX16RtbAauG9jXVNYEHURAcUiO96WC0bocS3 16jrFIQ+RKQvnl568wku0ctOGnWb89SxgKbj4LuOi9e0egVwAXt2iCvf7bJIlwixVbHnVYn eUESP1H9om/moX15BVK8a0+uNBMECSzaVUNLJ8=;

Message-ID: <918394.63115.qm@web24812.mail.ird.yahoo.com>

X-YMail-OSG: J33bJbwVM1nvKW7FNVxLajOKWyRGNISyWG7dL0S8B95uZCY QywV0SE8M2FnMjpeAhnmy2Hkfw2teigeaCvMm2mkxuDqUi8Npc3qljzRefWJ ACNS_F8VY.xXjmS0J06iJqwXeN7P0t7V3J3xY1zvwIK..tqUbJgj6eAgRPX3 Dxp4x7taqDqXrdhAxPUmrihkGtD1.LrIQ2kxvm80qd9oai5SmIIL4u0nLLtz WyG_kUjS9ZBRSTGg6ScVcHpxJzqXr_aHxghuJ_f3Edi_wev0HuvRjNtZK5Kc HpCOCfxOYKcJ__bc24HzEbxj92ABCouxSFctR9wmJZJ.5FWu2fGkQk.w-

Received: from [41.208.132.212] by web24812.mail.ird.yahoo.com via HTTP; Fri, 06 Aug 2010 11:05:58 GMT

X-Mailer: YahooMailClassic/11.3.2 YahooMailWebService/0.8.105.279950

Date: Fri, 6 Aug 2010 11:05:58 +0000 (GMT)
From: Rita Usman <odily4ritaa@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: HONEY PLEASE CONTACT THE BANK TODAY
To: My email address<XXXXXXX@gmail.com>
In-Reply-To: <AANLkTikZcJeuRoaYu-
W+t2cu52K3uJ1T_rgHGBHfuEQZ@mail.gmail.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="0-616293714-1281092758=:63115"

What you're looking for is the "Received: from" part after the DomainKey-Signature. In this case, by going to http://www.ip-adress.com/ip_tracer/ and putting in the IP address, we can see that the IP address we're looking for is 41.208.132.212 and that it leads to Senegal. All that most people will be able to get from the IP address is the location of the internet provider used, but the authorities are able to contact the provider and get the physical location of the computer used to send out the emails. No matter where the scammer claims to be, the IP address will show their true location. Of course nothing is ever that simple. It is possible to fake an IP address by using something called a proxy to connect to the internet from another computer in another part of the world, but a quick Google search will often tell you that it's a proxy and not to be trusted.

"SO WHAT ARE THESE PROXIES YOU TALKED ABOUT EARLIER?"

Let's try to explain simply what proxies are by describing a scenario to you.

Imagine this. You need to call someone, but if you then they'll see your phone number and know where you live. So what do you do? You drive to the next town and use a phone box there. Now if they trace the number, they'll only see the phone box you called from and not your house. Now imagine the same thing, but this time you want to hide your location while sending an email. You go to the next town and use a computer there. Again, if they check the location of where the email was sent from, then it'll appear as if it was sent from a computer in the next town. Let's think more globally now. Imagine you could travel to somewhere the other side of the world to send that email. Better yet, imagine you could write an email and send it from your PC, but then relay it from a computer the other side of the world, so any checks will only show the computer thousands of miles from you it was relayed from. That's what we're talking about here. The ability to use a program on the internet at your own location, but make it appear as if you're using a computer anywhere in the world. Scammers use them to hide their location from the authorities. Baiters use them to hide their location from scammers.

"So how do I go about using proxies?" I hear you ask.

There are several different ways. You can buy a program to do the job, you can use Firefox plugins to do it or you can set one up manually. Whichever method you use, you'll need a list of proxies. Proxy lists are easy to find. Just Google them. Some proxies are free, some you have to pay for. The choice is yours. Just be aware of the dangers of using proxies. It's possible for the proxy owner to see all your details as you send information across the web using it. Some sites ban proxies, plus it can seriously slow your browsing down. This is why we tell people that ask about Russian "ladies" using an "internet cafe" but having a proxy that it's a very good sign that they're dealing with a scammer. What internet cafe would deliberately install a program that can slow the internet connection down?

CHILDRO'S STORY.

I have been reading through many forum topics since becoming a member of this website. I have noticed a common feeling which so many of us victims share and would like to share my feelings about this with others.

I have entered my story details in the Nigerians Posing as White Males section and talked at length about my little scammer calling himself "Steve Paul" and using the email address of cuteheart4luv@yahoo.com. He tried to scam me for money, and I said "No", but I think that the feelings of fear he generated in me caused so much of my suffering. Besides having to change both my cell phone and home phone number, I had to block him from the Yahoo Instant Messenger and had to send a message to Yahoo to block him from emailing me, also. Because I was new to Yahoo Messenger, I at first did not even know how to make myself invisible, so even though I broke it off from him, every time I got onto my computer, I feared his "awareness" of me since I knew he still had me as a "friend" on Yahoo IM. I became almost obsessed that everytime I got online to do things like check my bank account online, he was watching me, and knew about my online banking. My fear began to give him more and more power to hurt me.

You know, I was pretty obsessed that I had a scammer who might cause more trouble in my life even after I broke it off from him. For one thing, he came onto Yahoo IM as another guy (with a different profile and picture on democraticpeoplemeet.com), but I knew it was him. I talk about that "fine gentleman" in a forum topic (jr_miller40@yahoo.com). It seemed I couldn't get away from his horrid online presence. Frankly, I felt I was being cyber-stalked. Even though I blocked jr_miller40@yahoo.com, as well as cuteheart4luv, I would get onto my Yahoo account and see that jr_miller40 had left a message for me at Yahoo IM. Yahoo suggested I ignore this, since he was not in my contacts. I, however, wanted to see what the little jerk was up to, so I read the messages. Usually, the messages were merely saying "Hi", but again, I felt he was imposing his cyber presence upon me.

He is still on DPM because I can't prove he is a scammer (unlike "Steve Paul" who asked for money to send to Nigeria). But I know the jerk is in a "new persona" on that website. I felt

pursued by him, and I kept worrying that he might do something with my bank account (although I had not given him any bank account numbers). I guess I was frightened that he might be a "computer hacker", but I realize now he is just a lazy criminal. But I understand victim's fears. I think when I realized I had been scammed, I felt that the little scumbag had more "powers and strengths" than he really did. Soon I realized that his only power was me fearing him. I believe that I should not say "He made me so mad", but that I LET him make me so mad, and I gave him the power to frighten and anger me. After that, I controlled my thoughts of him, and I began the healing process.

I hope that these musings will help others. I just realized within myself that these scumbag are looking for the "easy way out", and they will sadly pursue others when we leave them. The scammers are lazy and don't seem to want to come after us in the end usually. I know how scary it is to feel "cyber-stalked", but I also know how empowered I felt when I stopped giving him the power to frighten me. I now control my own thoughts about him.

I just hope this topic will help someone out there to heal.

"WHAT IS A BAITER?"

In its simplest form, a baiter is someone that pretends to be a potential victim to a scammer. There are two disciplines of baiting, being a baiter and being a catcher. These are different things, but only inasmuch as they bait for different end results.

Baiters are the ones who pick a scammer and, pretending to be a victim, talk to him, send him emails, call him on the phone, send him fake MTCNs and waste his time by all possible means. This can often go on for months or in some rare cases even years.

Catchers are the ones who place fake profiles on many different dating sites and social networks and try to catch as many scammers as they can, get their email addresses and IPs, then expose them. They post their details on scam lists. Catchers don't really bait, they only get the basic proof of a scam (such as IP addresses) and then move on to next scammer. Their contact with a scammer is usually only for a day or two as they only need the proof the person's a scammer.

You can be either a baiter, or a catcher, or both. It depends on how much time you have on your hands, and what you feel you can do best. There are also people who refer to themselves as "reverse scammers" or "cash baiters". These people attempt to get the scammers to send them money. We know the temptation is there but what they do is wrong. You can never make it right by doing wrong yourself. Besides, they have no money they'll ever give to someone over the net and if you did manage to cheat them out of money somehow, you'd just be taking money they stole from someone else. Personally our consciences would never allow us that. The other probability is that if they gave you money off a credit card - that card would be stolen and the fraudulent charges would lead back to you. Likewise checks and money orders.

One thing we should mention at this point is that we don't recommend a person bait their own scammer. To bait well you need to be emotionally detached from the scammer, and it's an incredibly difficult thing to do when the person you're baiting is the one that scammed you. It's a better option to ask someone else to bait him for you or to mentor you through baiting him.

"HOW DO I SAFE BAIT?"

There are things you need to be aware of before you even think about baiting a scammer. First up, as much as you may want to get back at the person that scammed you, the last thing you should do is continue from the address they're already in contact with. Drop them like a stone. If you want to bait them, or if you just want to have a go with someone else (and we don't really recommend it. It's much better to leave it to the people that know what they're doing), then get yourself a fresh new email address. There are free email providers that will hide your IP address. Google for them. If you don't know how to Google then walk away, you'll only put yourself at risk.

Now, if you're setting up a new address, make sure you put **NO IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF WHATSOEVER** in the application. Don't use an account from your ISP and try to get a .com address as well as it doesn't show your country.

When the scammer asks for a picture, don't send them your own. Think of a minor celebrity and Google yourself some natural looking pictures of them. No pictures of them on set or at an award ceremony.

What about a phone number? K7.net is a good place to get a free anonymous number. Skype is good too. An anonymous SIM card is a great help too, plus it costs the scammer more to phone.

Know about proxy servers? Know how to use one? Go on then, use that too to be doubly sure. Don't worry too much if you don't. A safe email account is fine.

Never send any documents to a scammer. They can reuse them and scam someone else with it. No matter if you make up a stupid looking fake one with Krusty the clown on it, if it fools a scammer it can fool a victim.

Get yourself a good virus checker and firewall. Get into the habit of checking every document you get sent. Get yourself a spyware checker. And always make sure to keep them all up to date.

RED ZORA'S STORY.

First I want to say, english is not my first language so I think you will find a lot of mistakes

😁 25 years I have not spoken english now I try it to learn myself again 😁

and I'm NOT a Scammer 🍷🍷

One year later I know more greate people as knew before.....Thank you scammer 😁

I registered on myspace in end of November 2008 because a friend of mine has a profile there already and I was new at the internet,too. After register on myspace I got a lot of messages and I never answered to unknown people there but in the end of January 2009 I did. I have gotten a long message on myspace and the man of the picture looks to be simpatico to me (picture of James Bill; focushawaii.com).He claim to be from Los Angeles, CA. So I have send a reply. He deleted or maybe myspace(because of a report, I don't know) deleted his profile very soon after we were in contact. I got a lot of emails that sounds so sweet and he caught me.

Dearest xxx,

How are you doing today? Hope you are doing good.I am so happy to read from you this morning.I want to let you know that distance does not matter in a relationship,what matters is knowing that your partner will always be there for you whenever you need him.Ever since you walked into my life and we started talking on chat, I have been smiling. There hasn't been a day when I have gone to sleep with a frown on my face, and it's all because of you. Honey, I am glad that you came into my life. I have always wanted the love of my life to be understanding, loving, caring, faithful and most of all someone who would accept me for who I am. I will like to get to meet you soonest.I look forward to chat with you again today.Have a nice day....

Always Thinking Of You.

Morris.

My Angel,

You Warm my heart too anytime that you and I chat. But Yet Am scared that You do not feel Like I do.....I Have a feeling that I have been possessed by your very being....meeting you was fate xxxx, becoming your friend was by fate but falling in Love with you was completely out of my countrol.....what else do i need in my world if not you? I have gone far and wide, I have seen things, I have met People but none has been able to touch my soul like you do. You have this air of peace around you that each time we chat its like the world was static. That is the world i want to build, a world where you and I alone matter, A world of Love, Life And Joy. I may not have all it takes to make you happy but i do have the one thing to make you a complete Woman.....i promise my Undiluted affection and Love to you. You Are The Woman In my dreams and now i Can not wait to Live the reality Of you and me.....

I Love you xxx

Morris

I created a YIM account and we chatted for hours. I didn't know how to speak english so I had problems to understand him and used a online translator sometimes it took some minutes until I had translated a message and it took some minutes until he got a answer from me



He was still waiting to get a answer from me and he promised me when I come to US I get a english teacher for myself so I will learn the english language very soon.

After few days we knew us he had to travel to UK and send me a email with his phone number in the UK but I never called this number.My luck, because it was a internet redirect number started with +4470...He send me a lot of poems and promised me his undying love.

My Declaration Of Love For You

Dear beloved xxx,

This feeling of love that I hold within my heart for you runs deeper than any ocean or sea; I just wish you could see how much you mean to me. If only you could hold me, then maybe you would feel my love for you that burns with a flame high enough to last.

If only you could hear my heart beat, then maybe you would understand the language of love with which it speaks. If only you could kiss me then maybe you would taste my love for you

that's so sweet, and if only you could look into my eyes, the window to my soul, then you would know that this is no lie! So, if what you feel for me is real and what you say is true, then with all my heart do I trust thee.

If you want me as your love as much as I want you as my love then so be it. I give you this heart of mine and ask nothing less or nothing more but just that you don't go breaking my heart. My love and trust is all I have to give to you, sealed with honesty throughout and as time goes by, may it grow stronger to fulfill your heart's desire. If it pleases you, call me your lover from this day forth and you're mine.

For your love am I and your best friend too. As our body, mind and soul combine, so do our hearts become one. Hear this, my declaration of love, from me to you. I love you, my Angel, with all my heart and I will never stop loving you. You are my life, you are my everything. Though distance may keep us apart, you will always be embedded deep within my heart.
From The Heart That Care's

Morris.

After few days he was in UK(he claim to be a Oil supervisor) he got a contract and said he has to travel to Nigeria on a oil rig and gave me his phone number in Nigera and I called him. It cost me a lot of money to call him 🗑️ A short time after this he got his first problem. 🤔

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 11:54:02): yes...just thinking

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 11:54:29): i am abit worried honey

:

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 11:59:50): well,i just came back from the work site now

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:00:16): some poeple from the state gorvenment came here to stop me from working

:

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:07:00): i show them the license my lawyer got for me from the federal government but they said yes that i must have permit from the state government

:

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:13:31): well,i pray i have all the money for the paper soon because i don't want to delay here

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:13:50): they have i have to pay some money

:

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:23:50): they asked me to pay \$3500 for the paper but i only have \$1500 here....I have to ask to my mother to see how much she can raise for me

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:24:56): i have to ask to my only friend and see what he can do to help me

:morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:28:08): i want to come back home at the 29th

xxx(17.02.2009 12:28:33): ok

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:28:35): but i must have to get this paper and complete my work first

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:29:11): i pray i get all this money for the paper this weekend at 22.2.09

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:29:21): i have already \$1500

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:29:49): i still need more \$2000 so i have to ask to my mother to see how much she can send me

xxx (17.02.2009 12:29:55): yes i have understand

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:29:57): i want to ask to my friend too

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:30:33): i am sorry i bother you with my problems honey

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:30:43): i do not mean to tell you this

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:30:58): but i can't keep it from you

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:31:16): my heart is sad honey

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:31:35): i will not go back to work until i have the paper

xxx (17.02.2009 12:32:55): i'm here for you

xxx (17.02.2009 12:33:48): i will help but i can't it

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:34:38): don't worry yourself honey

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:34:58): i believe my mother and my friend will help okay

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:35:34): i know you will like to help but you need to take care of yourself too

xxx (17.02.2009 12:36:46): why must you have this money ?

xxx (17.02.2009 12:37:19): it's your firma?

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:37:37): yes,i must pay this money to get the paper honey

xxx (17.02.2009 12:38:04): i mean firm

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:39:05): this is contract work honey,once you sign the contract,you must execute the contract with your money and get your pay after the contract

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:39:22): if you sign a contract it means you are capable to

handle it

xxx (17.02.2009 12:39:24): that with the paper i have understand

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:39:42): i have invested alot in this contract

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:40:25): this is a multi million contract honey and after this contract i will be rich

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:40:41): if you like i can send you my contract form

xxx (17.02.2009 12:42:06): oh no

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:42:30): i sold my car in the state because of this contract honey

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:42:46): and now i do not expect this to happen to me

xxx(17.02.2009 12:43:08): i don't have knowledge from this

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:43:17): but i must look for the money to get the paper and finish this contract so that i can get my work pay

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:44:04): after i finish the contract i have to fly back to London to sign my pay check

xxx (17.02.2009 12:47:06): ok i have understand,must many translate.i have translate with 2 translater

xxx (17.02.2009 12:49:56): i hope you don't your existence to forfeit with this high risc

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:50:51): is okay honey

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:51:17): i do this so that i can make big money and settle down again

xxx (17.02.2009 12:51:48): i hope you have understand what i mean.i'm careful

xxx (17.02.2009 12:52:31): money is not all in the life...

xxx (17.02.2009 12:52:58): money alone make not lucky

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:53:50): yes,i understand but money helps in life

xxx (17.02.2009 12:55:10): i have in the last year all lost what i had

xxx (17.02.2009 12:55:35): and i beginning new

xxx (17.02.2009 12:57:01): when i haved a little bit is coming what news for example to repair my car from the accident..

xxx (17.02.2009 12:57:58): but i'm strong

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:59:58): good honey....i know you are a strong woman

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 13:00:24): that's why i love you so much and i want to share the rest of my life with you

xxx (17.02.2009 13:01:13): sorry my kid

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 13:02:27): is okay

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:25:20): i need to get this paper before this weekend and get back to work

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 12:25:35): i want to come back home next weekend

:

morrismore62 (17.02.2009 13:13:11): i have to go now honey....i need to call my mother on phone to see how much she can help me

:

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:00:44): yes my friend will send me \$1000 tomorrow and my mother will send me \$500 today

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:00:59): she will send it to my lawyer here

:

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:04:30): no honey this is the only paper i need honey

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:05:06): i have my license already and what i need now is this paper permit and all will be fine again

:

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:11:39): Honey....i love you more

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:12:23): but the only problem now is how do i get the remaning balance of \$500 to complete the money

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:12:58): i stil need \$500 to get the paper and i don't know who else to ask for help

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:13:11): am just confused

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:13:28): i don't know what to think again

xxx(18.02.2009 09:15:38): when i could i would give you this money but i can't

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:18:02): oh...honey just do what you feel you can do for me to help me get this paper...i need to finish this contract work before next weekend so that i can go and get my pay check and come back home

xxx (18.02.2009 09:18:43): for would i to get the stars from the sky

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:20:49): Honey,i know \$500 is much for you this time but just send me any amount you can send and it will help me....no anmount is little honey

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:21:31): just do what you can do so that i can get this paper and continue my work

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:25:30): just tell me how much you can help me with okay

xxx (18.02.2009 09:26:50): i don` t have this money that is the problem,i must pay for repair my car over 2000euro and whis this have i a problem

xxx (18.02.2009 09:27:14): with

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:27:39): oh

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:01:35): my lawyer will get the paper if the money complete
:

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:30:03): honey my paper is more important now....i can send you this money back and help you pay for repair of your car....just help me to get this paper and continue finish my work and when i come visit everything will be fine...i will help you pay repair

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:30:29): just tell me how much you can do

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:31:12): if you can do 250euros or 300euros it will make me happy honey
:

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:37:07): Honey...i know you can do ityou can ask you mother to give you the money and you will give her back

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:37:20): just tell her you need some money

morrismore62 (18.02.2009 09:37:41): please honey you are the only one i have now

Yes...and the end of this... I lost money 😞 but it is not the only one request where he will ask me for money. He got his license and but his next problem was, the man at the office has blackmailed him. The officer wanted money from him to sign the license 😞

here his second money request 5 days later..... 😞😞

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:31:21): Honey this email you send me is so nice and sweet

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:31:46): Honey....i don't want to bother you anymore

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:32:02): my lawyer called me and it was a bad news

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:32:10): i am very bad now honey

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:32:34): am confused....i don't really know what to do....i feel like crying out my heart

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:32:48): i was crying when you called me on the phone

xxx (23.02.2009 15:33:01): can you not have this paper?

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:33:51): yes....the officer refuse to sign this paper honey...he do not want to sign this paper

xxx (23.02.2009 15:34:24): oh no....

xxx (23.02.2009 15:34:53): and now?

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:36:12): he asking for money...honey this country is corrupt...the governement is very bad....everything here in this country is money....everybody wants money honey

xxx (23.02.2009 15:36:34): why he don`t sign this paper

xxx (23.02.2009 15:37:11): more money?

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:37:33): he said i must give him money as bribe because i do not get this paper on time

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:38:44): yes...he need 550dollar for him and his boys

:

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:39:52): 550dollar honey

xxx (23.02.2009 15:39:57): what said the laywer to this?

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:40:34): he is very bad too

xxx (23.02.2009 15:40:43): you have 3000dollar

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:41:09): he have not eaten anything since morning and now he will need to go to hotel to sleep

xxx (23.02.2009 15:41:14): i can't help

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:42:22): honey,i know you can't help that's why i said i am bad because i don't know where to get this money from

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:42:46): if i tell my mother this she will be bad and you know she is old

xxx (23.02.2009 15:44:04): can she help you?

xxx (23.02.2009 15:44:18): or your friend

xxx (23.02.2009 15:44:45): can your laywer help?

xxx (23.02.2009 15:45:25): it is your mother and you her son

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:46:05): my lawyer can't help because his mother is sick and in the hospital...he need money to take care of her

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 15:46:31): and my mother,i will call her to let her know and see if she can help

:

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:01:30): remember i told you my friend's wife have a new baby so he said he cannot do anything much for me now but he will tell me what he can do by tomorrow

xxx (23.02.2009 16:01:51): can you have a advance from your contract in london?

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:03:31): no honey...the contract is suppose to end this weekend but this is delaying it now ...i have my full pay check after the contract..this is contract work honey

:

:

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:11:01): honey,no body will like to help me here because they see me as a foreigner and this people don't like foreigners

xxx (23.02.2009 16:12:20): i mean in america

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:13:21): honey...i don't have much friend in america and i hate telling people my problems

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:13:33): i like solve my problems myself

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:13:53): i just hope i hear a good news from my friend tomorrow

xxx (23.02.2009 16:14:34): i'm sad i can not help you

morrismore62 (23.02.2009 16:14:35): i will call my mother to see if she can help too but i need to get this paper fast so that i end this contract

:

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morrismore62 (24.02.2009 10:08:36): i have not good news from my friend honey

morrismore62 (24.02.2009 10:08:59): my mother said she is going to sale her cold

morrismore62 (24.02.2009 10:09:55): she said her cold worth 150dollar so she is going to sale it and send me the money

:

:morrismore62 (24.02.2009 10:12:02): my mother is only going to sale her cold to help me honey....i feel so bad for this

xxx (24.02.2009 10:12:35): i hope you will it thank her

morrismore62 (24.02.2009 10:13:05): yes but how can i get the remaining money

morrismore62 (24.02.2009 10:13:19): i stil will need 400dollar

:

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morrismore62 (25.02.2009 22:30:32): honey,the week is almost end and i have not this paper

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 22:31:21): my mother sent 150dollar today

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 22:31:43): i still need 400dollar to get this paper

:

:

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:27:45): honey...if you are ask to choose between your car and me which will you choose? me or your car?

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:27:52): be honest please

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:28:59): or can't energie and water wait for now and i pay all this bill next week when i get my pay check

xxx (25.02.2009 23:29:07): you and my car without my car i can go to work

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:29:52): now you really show me how much you love me and i thank you for this

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:30:36): when your car is damage,don't you go to work?

xxx (25.02.2009 23:30:51): without my car i can not go to work 56 kilometers

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:31:26): can't you take a taxi or public bus

xxx(25.02.2009 23:31:37): no

xxx (25.02.2009 23:32:20): i work in shift

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:32:27): okay

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:32:45): can't energie and water wait for now ?

morrismore62 (25.02.2009 23:33:09): is just few days and i get my pay check and everything will be fine

:

:

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:05:11): i understand when you can help just that i wish you can get a help from somewhere to help your husband but is okay

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:05:18): yes we must be happy

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:06:16): honey,i want to be happy but i can't just help it because i hear many news here

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:06:38): so am afraid of the news i hear here in this country

:

:

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:11:04): the news i hear here honey about the militants

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:11:16): i hear it on the CNN tv news

xxx(26.02.2009 22:12:18): fighters?

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:12:17): they are begining to merge war here honey and they kidnarp foreigers

xxx (26.02.2009 22:12:24): in nigeria?

xxx (26.02.2009 22:12:40): oh no

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:12:57): honey,i just wish to complete this contract work and go away from this country alive

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:13:30): yes in nigeria...the militant soldiers

xxx (26.02.2009 22:13:50): i think you are of a rig?

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:13:53): they fight against the government

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:14:27): yes but they can attack here too so i am afraid

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:15:29): i have asked my friend again to see what he can do to help me

:

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morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:58:56): honey,if you have the courage to love, you must have the courage to suffer...this is a cross you have to carry to save your love

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:59:26): honey...just find a way and help me and i promise you you get it back fast

morrismore62 (26.02.2009 22:59:42): and i will make you happy forever

He was really good in begging for all things he knew what to say.....I lost some money again



Now he has gotten the sign from the officer and had his license. Then he is going offshore and on the way to Owerri he was robbed and attacked by militants and I got a email from his lawyer

Hello xxx,

My name is John Ramsey your husband's lawyer here in Nigeria. Your husband(Mr.Morris More) was attacked by the militants on his way to the city.He's now at the church house where he run for his life.He want to fight with them so they beat him.The pastor of the church have called a doctor to come and see him.I do not want people to call him on phone now because he need rest this night so i have to off his phone.He have asked me to write you because he said you must be worried and try to call him on phone but you can call him tomorrow morning.He will be okay by tomorrow so please don't worry he is fine.

I hope he can talk with you online tomorrow.Bye

John.

WHOIS - 83.229.101.68

Location: Nigeria (high) [City

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:28:48): honey,i don't know how to tell you....i don't want you to feel bad and worried or dissappointing from me

xxx (10.03.2009 20:29:08): no no tell me please

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:29:09): i am in a big mess honey

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:29:59): honey,on my way to the city i was attacked my the militants

xxx (10.03.2009 20:30:44): ok that has wrote your laywer

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:30:47): the militants are begining to marge war with the gorvenment

xxx (10.03.2009 20:31:22): ok

xxx (10.03.2009 20:32:00): can you not fligh home from nigeria?

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:33:14): Honey,they take everything i have in my warlet...the little money i want to use for my air fee and my ticket

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:33:43): i try to fight with them and they started hitting me

xxx (10.03.2009 20:33:48): are you injured?

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:34:14): how could i let them take all my money

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:34:15): i have to fight

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:34:41): i little injured but am okay

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:35:11): i was so weak and i feel like my bone was broken

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:35:31): i was taken by a good man to the church

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:36:40): i begged the pastor of the church so that i stay in the church house until i find my way

morrismore62 (10.03.2009 20:37:01): all the night i was crying

I asked him to send me pictures of his late wife and his son and I asked him for things that he

did not want to hear I think. I told him that I found his picture on Myspace with another name and location and he told me someone has stolen his photo on Facebook. So I decided to register on Facebook with another name, too, but I didn't find anything because I didn't know how to search on Facebook. so I found nothing 😞

here is an email that I got 9 days later....always the same IP

Dear xxx,

I feel so sad about your new behavior. I don't really know where this is going to lead us to... I am afraid now that our relationship is not working out fine again. I am afraid that you are going to break my heart again. You have made me to remember my late wife and I am hurt again.... I have attached here the photos of me and my wife together and also the photo of my son... I cannot go out to the cyber cafe to scan my passport, the pastor does not have a scanner to do that but I will ask him to know if he can go out to cyber cafe and do it for me so that I can send it to you. Talk to you later.

WHOIS - 83.229.101.68

Location: Nigeria (high) [City:]

When I remember right now then he needed money for his flight ticket 😞

morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:18:58): honey, I don't think you understand my situation here

xxx(11.03.2009 08:19:10): yes

morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:19:12): you are there talking about yourself

morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:19:24): all you think is about yourself

xxx(11.03.2009 08:19:35): oh no honey

morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:19:56): all you think is if you live till the end of the month'

xxx (11.03.2009 08:20:54): I don't know where I can have money to help you

morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:20:55): your husband is here dying and all you tell me is you don't know if you live till the end of the month

morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:21:20): you just make me sad honey

xxx (11.03.2009 08:21:31): i call the embassy and try this way
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:21:32): i feel you only think about yourself
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:22:40): don't call any embassy just go and look for some little money
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:22:41): i don't want poeple know about my sitaution
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:22:44): understand me please and stop saying that
xxx (11.03.2009 08:22:48): i will help you but i can not help with money
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 08:22:58): just go and thnk what you can do
:
:
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:16:55): please tell me how much you think you can raise
xxx (11.03.2009 23:17:12): i can't say it
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:17:57): well,i am still waiting for my friend to call me and tell me how much he can send me
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:18:23): he will call me in 1hour time
xxx(11.03.2009 23:18:31): he must much send honey,you must try it
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:19:08): i will let you know how much he can send after he call me okay
xxx (11.03.2009 23:19:14): you know my situation here
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:22:40): honey,i understand your situation and i know things are hard for you now but this is my life we are talking about
xxx (11.03.2009 23:23:07): yes i know
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:23:10): honey,if you loose me what are you going to do?
xxx (11.03.2009 23:23:40): i will not loose you
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:23:40): honey,my life is more important now
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:24:00): you and my friend must get me out of here
xxx (11.03.2009 23:24:17): i will try it
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:24:53): my friend have to drive 4hours to where he will get some money from his friend
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:25:30): he will have to drive to another city to ask his friend for some money to help me
morrismore62 (11.03.2009 23:25:45): when he gets back,he will call me

3 times I have send money to him. Include all fees I lost ca. 900-1000 Euro.

Then I began to search on Myspace and found a lot profiles with stolen pictures from James Bill and used by scammer. One day I found a antiscammer profile on myspace they have written about "nigerian Scammer" I have never heard from scammers before. So I googled "scammer" and I found romancescam.com but I have not registered here and got the proof I have been scammed 😞 I decided to "play" with my scammer and he tried to send me a check because he told me he has a german co-worker and his woman could not drive a car I think.

morrismore62 (03.04.2009 23:43:47): I have meet a co-worker here who is originally from germany and he want to help me with the money i need to go to london but his wife have to send this money

morrismore62 (03.04.2009 23:45:23): she could not drive to where she can do it western union that is why i have told her that she will send the money to you since you are in germany too so that you can send it to me

I said I do not want a check from unknown people and so he tried to get my bank details.He send me his passport before and I saw it is fake. I said "No" to him and he was very angry at the end and I have leaved him without words.

I begun to search on Myspace and looking for scammer profiles and warned womens one of them is my friend till today. She made experience with scammers before and she told me how they work...I found the next antiscammer profile and have written a message and told my story. With this woman I'm from time to time in contact untill today. She asked me to send her the passport and she said she has the same passport there with the same number but with a different picture and wanted the IP from me...I never heard from a IP before and she explained me via email how to do this. In the middle of May 2009 I registered on romancescam.com and learnd a lot about scammer but I never made a post. 150 scammer profiles I have reported to myspace then I have send them 169 scammer profiles sort by pictures and I got a email from Myspace as proof they want a picture from the owner of the picture with a paper in their hand where is written my email address. 😞😞 On 1. June. 2009 I created my own antiscammer profile on myspace and on the end of June after Myspace not wanted to delete the profiles I send them anymore I joined romancescam.com again. Because of my wrong posts at the first time I came in contact with FrumpyBB...seems he was a bit angry with me because of my wrong posts 😞...he explained me how to post scammer and

told me about baiting 🐱 and his storys were very interesting so I got some advice how to do safe baiting and have baited my first scammer and got a real picture with a paper in his hand and handwritten that he loves me 🙌🏻 I posted a lot of scammer profiles here on RS and gave some advices to victims and since Dezember 2009 I got the confidence from the Siteadministrators and Moderators here and be a Moderator until this day. It make me always happy to help victims here and some I could save to be a victim with my antiscammer profile on Myspace, too.

It was one year ago now where I have been scammed. On this way of research my scammer I learned to know a lot of wonderful people here and somewhere at the internet.

Thank you to all who teached me, thank you to all for the confidence 🙌🏻

To all the victims that read my post here....it will be there a life after been scammed with happiness and peace like the wise words in the topic title say "Join as a victim, leave as a victor." 😊

Best regards

Red Zora

CRESCENTMOON'S STORY.

Monday, April 5th 2010 will be one year since I last talked with the man who stole from me, the man who scammed me. Last year at this time I was rushing home to view him on a web cam. As the clock ticked, I waited and waited. As we all know, that did not happen. I then knew for sure what I had known all along but ignored. It was too good to be true. I have told my story before and that is not what I want to do now. I want to write about the journey I have had in the past year and the amazing things that have happened. I want others to know that there is life after a scam.

When I found this site in early July 2009 and saw all the stolen pictures of the same man, I was crushed. How could this be? How could I have become so close to a man who was not real? I have a college degree and great career. I am not a stupid woman! What did I do? When my head and my heart finally connected I thought to myself, now what?

I read and then re-read all the posts on this site almost every day and shed many tears over what I was reading. I grieved. Pinky explained to me from her experience what had happened to me and why. She also reminded me that a guy down the street could have scammed me just as well. I grieved even more. I added posts here and there where I thought I could help or contribute. It was very healing and I hope that I may have helped at least one soul along this same journey. I finally knew I was not alone in what had happened to me and that I was not the only person who had caught up in the lies and deceit from Africa.

A few weeks later I received a message from a woman who asked if we could talk and perhaps help each other. At first I was very skeptical considering what had just happened. Like me she is an American and I knew she was real. I figured if she was brave enough to contact me, maybe we could help each other. In the past 9 months we have burned up the telephone lines several times a week. We have laughed and cried and have supported each other. Together we have healed. We have become sisters who share a common experience. We would never have met each other if RS did not exist. We would have grieved privately and remained embarrassed by what had happened. She is coming to meet me next month, in person and will be at the airport! AMAZING!

As I read many of the posts on this site in the past year, I realized that there are so many good men and women in the world that this had happened to. We all have GIANT hearts and were just looking for love. I realized at that point I needed to figure out why I did what I did in order to heal.

I then got angry. I wanted revenge. I wanted to stop the monster that had done this to me and I wanted to find the real man in the pictures. I kept thinking that this world could not possibly have such evil in it. However, along this journey, I have always refused to call myself a “victim.” Everyone on this site who has been scammed is a brave individual who has SURVIVED! We are all SCAM SURVIVORS!

As the old saying goes, “time heals all wounds.” I realize now that this is just a bump in the road in life. When I look back on the past year, I think about how amazing life can be if you look for the opportunities. I am proud to call many people on this site “friend.” I have spoken to members from all over the world and now have a “girls” club of other survivors that I speak with on a regular basis. We have all pretty much moved beyond the scam now and are dealing with life in a much different way than we used to. The man who scammed me used to talk about the Internet making the world a “global village.” This experience reminds me that although the Internet can be a dangerous place, it can also bring so very much good.

Pinky told me early on that I would never be the same after the scam. I think about that often. However, I am not the same. I am better! This experience has given me an opportunity to look deep inside myself and think about what I really want, why my values are and who I am.

So, after much pain, many struggles and an ocean of tears, I am here to tell you that one-year later, I have survived being scammed! Magically, just a few weeks ago I started communicating with a man via the Internet that I have know since I was 6years old and grew up with. AMAZING! We are carefully embarking on a new relationship. Baby steps one at a time. I was able to tell him about the scam and his comment was that I wasn't stupid I was uneducated. Yes, that alone makes me realize he could be a keeper. I feel like life has come full circle. Perhaps I needed to go through this experience to understand what is important in a relationship. It is scary to think about a dating again, but he is real and has no drama other than the normal drama that we all have in our daily lives. We are in the same time zone and his accent matches mine.

I would like to thank Marisa and Wayne for all of their efforts to keep this site running. I would also like to thank FrumpyBB for answering all my stupid questions and always responding no matter what. And Pinky. Well, with out her holding my hand through this journey I know I would never have made it where I am now! I applaud her tireless efforts to help others and educate the world. She has spent countless hours since July helping me and listening and always offering wonderful advice. I cannot wait until the day comes that I can look her in the eye, give her a giant hug and say "Thank you." I would also like to thank all of the brave members of this site that tell their stories and encourage others. Without all of your help, I am not sure I would have ever been able to get to this point in my life. I smile an awful lot these days and the RS Community is partially responsible.

So, after an awful lot of soul searching, I am feeling pretty good about myself and the work that I have done. When I thought that HE was coming, I bought a very expensive bottle of African wine. On Monday, I am going to open that bottle and have a toast to the past year. One year later, I survived being scammed!

Tue Apr 06, 2010 6:27 pm

For anyone interested. The wine was SOUR and AWFUL. I am not surprised one bit!

Wed Sep 22, 2010 2:14 am

*****UPDATE*****

Hello everyone!

I felt like I needed to post an update to this thread. I am overwhelmed by the responses as it seems that it has helped a few survivors. As I have said, I don't get to visit often these days. It is quite tonight and something told me to check this post. With time, I do not obsessive anymore. It took awhile, but I don't.

So for those of you who might be interested, I am getting married on Saturday! My "intended" is a guy I met when I was 6 years old. After High School we both went our separate ways and met up again via the internet on Facebook, GULP 30 years later. I am only 29 so, I am not sure how that is possible! 🤖 I have decided that the internet is not evil, you just need to use it wisely. In hindsight, the scam experience forced me to look at ME! And when I finally was at my lowest I did. Here I am today. Hopefully happy for the next 100 years with everything I ever dreamed of having! Perhaps this new post will help others.

I would like to thank those "survivors" whose stories helped me get to this place. I would also like to thank Wayne for always answering my "stupid" technical questions; Frumpy who always answered my "alarms" on posts; and PINKY! Well, I can't say enough. I do not believe I would be here with out her help. I love all of you from the bottom of my heart.

So...if anyone cares to, please pray/project for a beautiful day here in the USA, east coast on Saturday!

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I still think about it sometimes even now over a year later. But it is not all consuming like it was in the begining. Actually I laugh about it now. Once I quit beating myself up over what I did I was able to move forward. New members, please remember that. What I was looking for was under just under my nose all the time. A guy I grew up with who was raised exactly like me. 🌍

I thank you all for helping me through this journey. I will keep all of you in my heart for a very long time.