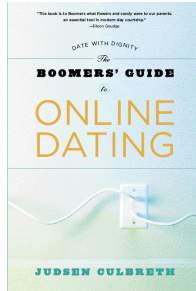


The Boomers' Guide to Online Dating

– Judsen Culbreth –



Safety Concerns – Chapter 9

Interview with the Date Detective

California licensed private investigator Carmen Naimish specializes in cyber cases, working with clients all over the world. Since she began sleuthing risky romances in 1989, Naimish has heard some pretty tall tales. She stopped one wedding as the bride was headed to church to say her vows. The groom, who Naimish discovered had no means of support, was within minutes of taking the bride for richer and making her poorer. Naimish graciously shared her expertise during a telephone interview.

Q. What do you look for during a typical investigation?

A. Investigations are tailored to meet the concerns of the client. In general, I look for confirmation that the person is who he claims to be. Criminal records are important to search and, as it applies, proof of home ownership, previous marriages and divorces. A divorce, for example, may be filed but not finalized. If you married a man without that finalization, he would be a bigamist and your marriage most likely null and void.

Q. What are some early warning signs?

A. There are typical patterns. Anyone who's secretive or elusive about their past probably has something to hide. He may claim to work for the CIA or other high-security agency, like an anti-terrorist task force, to excuse his secretiveness or unavailability. He may say he has no family to detour you from finding out more about him. One man insisted that he was the reincarnation of an uncle who'd died in a plane crash during the war. They can come up with some dramatic, exciting tales. You can also expect trouble if he blames others, usually the ex-wife, for all his problems. He may say all his relationship failures were the woman's fault. He'll also

make sure you don't try to contact the ex-wife. 'She died in a plane crash,' he'll say. Or, "She's crazy, and I had to put her in a mental institution." I've heard all of these stories.

Q. These guys sound awful. Why would someone fall for them?

A. They are charming and can be very romantic in the beginning. In fact, beware of someone who professes love right away or gives you expensive gifts early in the relationship. If you have an instinct that something's wrong, you're probably right.

Q. What about money rip-offs, like the bride you mentioned?

A. Mature daters should be cautious because they probably have more assets to lose. Making a loan to a man is highly risky. Don't fall for stories about his losing his wallet or that he's waiting for "funds to transfer."

Q. What else does a savvy single person need to know?

A. My motto is, "If you date, investigate." Don't be afraid to ask questions, and keep notes on the answers. Find out his full name, including middle name or initial. And date of birth. Even the month and year are helpful. You could mention the upcoming birthday of a friend, than ask what his is. You also need a current address, preferably his previous address as well. I can then determine which county records should be checked. With this kind of information you can do some detecting yourself at the courthouse.

Q. What if someone wanted to hire you?

A. Call my toll-free number, (888)-84-CHECK. Fees typically begin around \$375. My Website is DateSmart.com.