

JN2

NEW!

The Date Doctor

Here to soothe your single blues!



Personal development coach Jo Barnett, who runs the Connect Dating Agency, reveals the secrets to successful relationships

WHERE DID I GO WRONG WITH J-DATE WOMAN?

Dear Jo

I'm a single guy in my early 40s with two lovely kids. I've been on my own for about five years and would love to meet a special Jewish woman. I recently corresponded with someone on JDate and we seemed to get on well. We exchanged a few long emails and enjoyed great conversations on the phone. We then arranged to meet up. I was looking forward to it, but she cancelled, using work as an excuse. I get the impression that this will now come to nothing and can't help wonder what I did wrong.

Anthony

Hi Anthony

Thank you for sharing your experience. You are certainly not alone in your confusion. Firstly, I can hear how ready you are to meet someone. That is very positive, so don't let this experience put you off.

Clients often tell me they get frustrated with the pitfalls of online dating. There is often an issue between arranging a date and what's going on in the other person's life in the interim.

It's important for you to know that you have *not* done anything wrong. You made the effort to get to know someone and showed an interest in meeting face-to-face. This is the best way to approach dating and far better than chatting online for ages and not getting to the meeting part.

However, in my years of experience as a dating coach, there is often more going on with the other person than meets the eye.

Maybe she really is snowed under at work, perhaps there is a family crisis that she does not want to share and, of course, there is a chance that she was also in contact with other guys and decided to meet someone else before you.

The fact that she was not honest with you was to avoid hurting your feelings, but you are upset because you were not given the truth. If you really did like this lady, the best advice I can give is to send one short message in a week's time to see if she is a bit less hectic and would like to meet up for a coffee. Keep it positive and don't bring up the past or any upset.

That way you will have given it your best shot. If it's a yes then great. If it's a no, move on gracefully and don't take it to heart.

There are lots of lovely ladies out there that would love to meet you!

If you have a dating query, Jo is here to help! Email her your question to jo@datingcoach.me.uk

BOYFRIEND WON'T CALL ME HIS 'GIRLFRIEND'

Dear Jo

I am a 32-year-old lawyer and have been dating a 39-year-old man for the last nine months who I really like. We get on so well when we are on our own and I find him so attractive too – this has never happened before!

The problem is that he seems to have commitment issues and does not want to call me his girlfriend.

We have not told many people we are dating because he likes to keep things private.

When his friends are around, he is offish and this is starting to upset me.

I know that when we are together we have a great time, but I'm starting to want more and am wondering if he will ever be able to settle down, which is something I really want for myself.

I am scared to talk to him as I don't want to push him away.

What do you suggest? Thanks for any advice you can give me.

Debbie

Dear Debbie

You are in a tricky place. I can hear how torn you are. It's not easy to find someone you enjoy spending time with and who is attractive too, so I know how hard this must be for you.

It is not uncommon for guys to have commitment issues and to be scared to enter into something with a label.

There are many reasons. They may be scared of failing at the big relationship and so want to keep it light for as long as possible. Or, he wants to keep his options open a bit longer and play the field. Either way, if his behavior is not working for you, it's time to be honest with yourself and him.

Start by telling him how much you like him and enjoy his company, then ask him how he feels about you. Ask him where he sees himself a couple of years from now and really listen to the answers.

From working with hundreds of singles, I know how easy it is to avoid the hard truth and I also know that it only delays your own happiness.

My advice to you is to trust your intuition ... it is *always* right. You can also make a list of the pros and cons of being in this relationship. What are you getting and what are you missing out on?

I wish you the best of luck.



come together

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More at Jo's dating website - www.datingcoach.me.uk