

Client: Valerie Roe
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Page: 28
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Two's Company is the perfect match

With the help of her agency, dating expert Jennifer Haskins is helping solve an age old problem of finding romance

HOLD ME TIGHT Jennifer Haskins, inset, believes at all ages there has to be a spark to the relationship

Jennifer's Top Tips To A Successful Date:

- Don't blow it by drinking too much or talking too much.
- Pay attention to your date - this is the best compliment you can give them.
- Don't underdress or overdress; smart casual is best.
- Don't try to get too close or intimate on the first date.
- Don't keep looking at your phone or answering texts.
- Don't go into it expecting for your date to pay - this can be a real turn-off.
- Don't talk negatively about or get emotional about past relationships.
- Don't text too much before the first date, but don't leave it too long between calls/texts after the first date. Be sure to keep the momentum going.
- Women - don't run after a man, men prefer to do the chasing. But don't appear too aloof or they may give up trying to win you over.
- Don't be afraid to be vulnerable, it is an attractive trait.
- Personality: I think people would have far better success if they were more relaxed about the whole thing. Generally, people take themselves far too seriously, so be mindful of this. If you're at ease you'll put your date at ease and you'll both have a better time.
- Don't talk incessantly about your children (if you have them).
- Don't pour your entire life out on the first date.
- Keep the conversation upbeat and positive.

“ I have many clients who tell me their confidence has been knocked on dating apps **”**



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Looking for love in your 40s but can't seem to get past the first date?

Romance expert Jennifer Haskins and founder of Two's Company, Ireland's premier match-making agency, says with simple hacks we can increase our chances of love.

Jennifer, 58, from Dublin, told the Irish Mirror: "First of all, if there's no chemistry on the first date, there will be no chemistry later on.

"If the attraction is not there then things don't progress. If there is chemistry, you might be on to a winner."

We often put finding love to the back burner and let work life take over.

Career goals, she has noticed among her clients, are clearly defined, pursued and achieved with conviction.

While it seems matters of the heart are more often left to chance, the romantic encounter we hope, someday, to stumble upon.

Unfortunately, the reality is that we're far busier today than ever before, dating apps have knocked our confidence and finding love in a pub is a thing of the past.

We don't meet people organically in the way we once did.

As a result, time moves on and though our careers may be firing on all cylinders, our love life's gone off the boil.

That's precisely where Two's Company – a private dating and match-making agency catering for unattached singles aged 28 to 78 – comes in.

Founded in 2008 and inspired directly by Haskins' own dating dilemmas, she's fully aware of the issues faced by those looking for love.

From the pressures of work to the desire for discretion and confidentiality that the current dating apps world fail to deliver on.

After 12 years in business, with a background in human behavioural studies, Haskins has a unique and qualitative insight into what works and what doesn't when it comes to the dating scene.

Dating apps have created a world where instant gratification is the norm and serial dating is killing romance.

The mum of three said: "Dating apps aren't for everyone, how we are meeting is changing, our sexuality, our openness.

"You've got all these new expressions as to how people define themselves but in regard to how people communicate, on What's App, Skype, they won't talk to the person sitting beside them.

"Communication is breaking down and people are much more isolated.

"Our natural instinct to connect with other human beings is being suppressed.

"The younger generation want instant gratification, instant response and instant stimulation, these apps are creating a situation where it's swipe right or left.

"If the person doesn't get back to you quickly enough you move on to the next one because there are lots more out there.

"If the date doesn't progress quickly enough they'll just go back on the app, some even go back on the app during a date.

"I have many clients who tell me their confidence has been knocked on dating apps.

"Serial dating is on the rise, if something is so freely available and if it's about next, it's giving rise to people who are addicted to first dates, the adrenaline rush of the new date."

The new dating vernacular can also be off putting. Haskins said:

"We've got all this new terminology now, ghosting is where someone meets you, connects with you and then they disappear.

"They might reappear after a few weeks, what's happened is someone better came along in the meantime.

"Breadcrumbing is where they get you interested, give you little tasters, come in and out of your life but they're not really that keen.

"Love bombing is where they come on so strong and it's too much.

"It's the lesser attractive side of dating, courting is dead.

"These days it's normal to date for months on end before

people become exclusive." The people who use a dating agency like Two's Company are very serious about finding a partner.

She explained: "The people who come to my agency are looking for a relationship, something authentic, we don't specialise in hook-ups.

"A lot of people come to us who are disenchanted with the dating apps.

"I meet the client face to face, I know a lot about these people and with my background I can suss them out quickly.

"It's tough for the over 50s who may have been in a long-term relationship and suddenly you don't know how to navigate the dating landscape.

"We can help them to know how to handle that first date.

"Intention is huge, having the right one is crucial, knowing you want to meet someone and connect is half the battle."

Older people falling in love is particularly heartwarming. Haskins adds: "I love working with the older people.

"They might have lost a partner and they're lonely and meeting a person that they can grow old with, it's so lovely, they're very realistic."



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