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If He Wanted To, He Would:

Signs that It's Time to Move On When Searching for Love in Your 20's

If they're not giving 110%, they might as well be giving nothing at all.

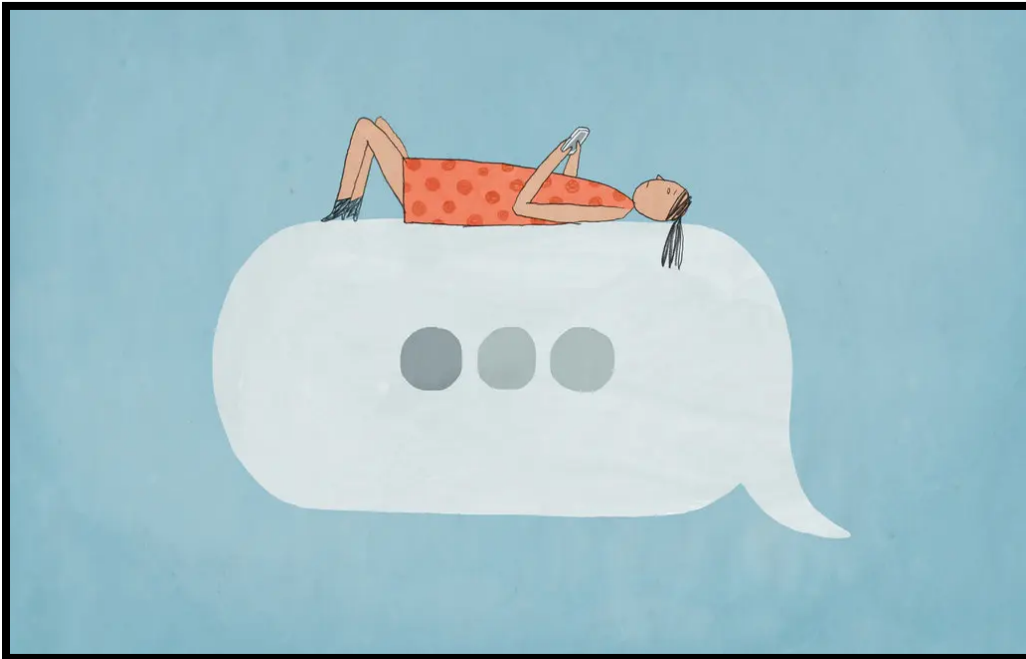


Image: [Three Dots](#) Courtesy of Brian Rea, from The New York Times

(CHICO, CALIFORNIA) – It's a Thursday evening and Angie is getting ready to wind down for the night. She washes her face and gets nestled up in her bed and turns her ambient lights on to set a cozy vibe. Her phone lights up her face as she swipes left and right on Bumble, looking for her next source of temporary attention. She's still waiting for Chad to message her back, after their late night romantic conversation that nearly swept her off her feet. Sure enough, as the clock struck 10:30 p.m, Chad buzzed back into her life for the night, only to disappear in the morning. While Chad practically fell off the face of the planet, Angie couldn't help but wonder about him all throughout the next day.

Nut Graph: In a world that revolves around dating apps and social media, it's hard to find people who take it seriously, especially in your twenties. When you find a potential partner and things start rolling, it can fizzle out just as quickly as it started. Because of the accessibility to practically *all* the fish in the sea, many tend to pick and choose who they want to talk to for a little while, and eventually just leave them hanging on the hook with hardly any context. There are many telltale signs to know when you might be in a situation that is not worth your time and effort to pursue, and here's some signature red flags you'll want to avoid if you are looking for "the one".

Body: "For most of us, online dating is frustrating, especially if you take it seriously. Potential suitors are often flighty, defensive, and shallow. People lie. People ghost." as told by Randy Withers, a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor in North Carolina.

Breadcrumbing

"Breadcrumbing" is the act of sending our flirtatious but non-committal social signals and cues in order to lure a potential partner in without putting in a lot of effort. In other words, it's leading someone on. A perfect example of this would be sweet, charming Chad from Bumble sending messages to you only between the hours of 10 p.m.-12 a.m., telling you everything you want to hear, yet still leaving you wanting more, while he could care less.

Conclusion: Online dating can be stressful, frustrating, and draining when you are looking for your next potential partner, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel and you aren't the only one who takes it seriously. Don't be discouraged to explore your options on dating platforms,

however take into consideration the red flags that may lead you into putting more effort than reciprocated. We are all deserving of love, and these are the years we should spend enjoying ourselves and building healthy relationships, not wallowing over a person who might've never been real in the first place.