Summary

The article written by William Dameron entitled, “My Face is catfish bait: “I’m the 40-year-old man” face of deceptive online dating- and I think I know why they do it” was actually a very thought provoking read. The article starts with William, the author, describing a few mysterious Facebook friend requests he’s gotten lately and accepted. This lead to women messaging him asking about his identity and what he does which at first confused William. After this, he did much research and found out that his pictures were being used to ‘catfish’ people, a term that is used to describe when people make fake profiles on social media with intentions of online dating them. As this article goes on, he finds out that one woman was in a four-year relationship with the fake him, and his picture was also being used on about six other dating sites.

William goes on to say that in his real life he is gay and divorced from his wife. After the divorce he decided to make a profile on a dating website and went on a few dates with some men, all unsuccessful. Then finally, William met a man that he feel head over heals for, Paul. Out of insecurity, William made a fake profile on the same dating site and asked Paul if he was in love, which he responded no. This devastated William and after opening up to his therapist about this he realized that making that fake account wasn’t in his character. Espically after his face was used to catfish others. After deleting the fake account, William and Paul continued dating and eventually got married. He ends the article with a quote that really ties up this whole situation, “Perhaps it was the universe poetic response, the man who pretended to be another becomes the one others pretend to be”.

Response

I thought that this was a very interesting read. I sometimes catch myself watching the MTV show Catfish in my free time so this concept was not completely new to me. I find the whole online dating thing kind of weird, but the idea of using someone else’s picture and trying to pretending to be them, I find very weird and creepy. As mentioned in the article, a woman was in a four year relationship with the fake William, and claimed to be in love with him. The worst part about it to me is that I don’t know how you can ‘fall in love’ with someone you’ve never met. Also, the catfisher (person using the fake profile) always seems to gets caught when it comes to meeting in person- so what’s the point?

If I ever found myself in the online dating world, if I could ever get past the fact that I have never met the man that I am in a ‘relationship’ with, I would be completely devastated if I found out that he wasn’t real and the profile was fake. I would probably go into shock and delete all social media and never ever use a dating website again. I would also probably have some serious trust issues when it came to men and dating, even if the person who was catfishing me was attractive
and his personality was genuine, I could never trust someone who feels like they have to lie about what they look like.

On the other hand, I could never see myself being a ‘catfisher’ because I think that people who have to fake who they are to find love have some serious problems. However, if I found myself in this position, I don’t think I could go through with it like some of the people in the TV show and the profiles mentioned in the article did. I would have to come clean very quickly if I really loved someone because if I really loved someone I would want to spend my life with them in real life not behind a computer screen. Overall, I find the whole idea of catfishing so crazy and don’t understand how some people can do this with their lives.

In a third scenario, if my picture was used to catfish somebody, I would be so shocked on how someone choose to be me and where the found me at. I would probably go a little crazy in thinking that someone was trying to steal my identity and maybe change the way I live and what I do on the Internet. Similar to William, I would get in touch with websites with my picture on it and demand that they are all to be deleted. However, unlike William, I would never consider to do the same thing back to someone, because the emotions that that would provoke in me would be something I would never want to put on someone else.

Question
How does someone that is making a profile with intentions to catfish someone come up with and find who they want to be?