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Catfish Article

This article was written by ‘Bill’ who had his online photo stolen many times over. After exploring many dating sites his search turned up many of his photos with a different identity and back story to each. He began to understand some of the interest he was getting from Facebook invites and so he went to discover his own face that named differing male identities and in differing parts of the world. One as far away as Australia. He reports he was “freaking out”!

As one reads further along in Bills story, the reader can begin to understand the ‘real’ Bill’s experience. It seems he was once a church-going husband and father who was living as if this made him happy and content. As Bill goes on to report, however, he actually was not. He says only that his wife left him and moved 700 miles away with his daughters…after he came out as being gay.

Bill moved on to therapy and beginning to seek the companionship of men. He talks about encounters and dates he went on. He met ‘Paul” who went on to become the gay love of his life and eventually they were married. Most importantly, along the way, Bill learned to be his authentic self and learned not to be so insecure with his deception while testing Paul’s early feelings for him.

This article was interesting because it presented us with a problem that is a lot deeper than one would originally think it to be. At one point you almost had to feel a little bit sorry for Bill, after you found out his family left. It made my stomach feel uneasy because that is just an
impossible situation. I have no problem with same-sex marriage, but waiting until your married
with kids is not a smart path. I am happy that Bill finally realized who he was, but all I could
think about were his kids when reading that.

This article bestowed me with an overall feeling of sorrow for the family. The entire time
I was reading the article, I could not help but think “what if this were me?” I think I would look
at my dad a little differently and it is honestly a hard situation to write about but I would honestly
feel betrayed. Not by the fact that my dad is gay, but by the fact that he made my mom believe
for so long that the connection was real. If I was in the mother’s position, I would have moved
700 miles away too. Think about getting married to someone, having kids with them, buying a
house, starting a life together! That would absolutely have me furious, for it was like a pretend
land for him. I mean did he think he could just lie forever and be happy?

What I really felt when reading this article was that most other people probably did not
feel afraid. I felt afraid for the future. I mean, is this what our world is coming to? When is
the last time you heard a story about two people meeting at a post-office or coffee shop?
Everyone is so bundled into technology, that it is what most people are living by. Relationships
went from personal and meaningful, to over the phone and surface-oriented when you really
aren’t certain who your actually talking to. There is now a show on MTV that is called
Catfish that is solely based on the use of fake profiles to bait users into having fake online
relationships.

This is truly a scary scenario because most of us probably know someone over social media that
doesn’t even exist. I thought this article was awakening. Awakening in the sense that this man
was deceptive, yet his face was being used by others for the purpose of being deceptive. But
social media engenders this. There is no real contact, and there is no real consequence. “I
unfriended her”! Wow, how will she ever recover from that? Social media is impersonal. Sometimes that works, but most of the time it allows one to be anything they want to be simply by typing in what they think someone else wants to hear.

One can’t do this in person.

When one is sitting, or standing, face to face, talking to someone, the truth usually makes its way to the surface. It is black and white, inanimate, on that screen right in front of you, and there is no buzzer that says “that’s a lie”.

Shake a person’s hand, look them in the eye, know who they are, and the world will be a safer and better place. This is not a reason to stay off the computer when looking to obtain new relationships, but maybe ask yourself next time “Is this really the person I am getting to know, or am I about to spend my time and effort getting to know someone who does not and never will actually exist?”