The article begins with an email that the author received from a strange woman saying that he lied to her. Before that, he surprisingly got a lot of Facebook friend requests after one night. After expanding the profile picture of Helen, whom he never met before, he accepted her request. Right after his acceptance, she asked him if he knew Plenty of Fish, which was an online dating site, and he responded by blocking her with the thought that she might have been a Canadian sex line operator. After getting the email, he decided to unblock Helen, and she sent him a URL which pointed to a profile picture of himself with the information of someone else.

He searched on Google that picture and figured out that his face had been floating on the Internet with different names and identities. Most common links of that picture led him to his own blog, “The Authentic Life”, that he wrote 10 years ago after he and his wife divorced because he came out as gay and his wife went away with his daughters. He began dating and created a profile on Yahoo Personals with a really good profile picture. Most of the guys left him after they met in real life until he met Paul. He tried to know whether Paul fell in love with him like he did with Paul by creating a fake profile on Yahoo with a different identity asking Paul if he had found his Mr. Right.

The unexpected denial from Paul broke him down. And the author realized that he had been pretended to be someone else the whole time, that he should become who he really was. He wondered why the catfishers chose his likeness while he had pretended to be someone else for a long time. In the end, he had most of his pictures removed but there is still one on Plenty of Fish, but he was not going to do any bad things as it was not something that he would do.

It is not a surprise reading an article about catfishers and someone got their face stolen by some sort of strangers on the Internet. This nowadays has been happening more often than we thought,
especially in online dating. Even though it is not moral to do something like that, it is understandable that everyone wants themselves to look good, especially when it comes to dating.

Reading this article makes me scared of the online world and social media. We never know if our information and our pictures are being used by some other parties for various purposes until we actually accidentally see it. It can’t be denied that social media and the Internet have brought a whole new level of accessing good information and technology, it has helped bring people closer and erase geographical distance. But everything comes with a price, coming with it is the danger and insecure of the information we put up online. The Internet makes it too easy to access and steal someone’s identities without any penalties.

If this happened to me as someone stole my profile picture and pretended it as themselves, I might feel angry and unacceptable. I would wonder why they would ever do it without my permission. I would contact the websites immediately to tell them to remove my pictures. Even though I might not be able to get into every single website, I would do as much as I could. However, I would not want to contact the people who used my pictures since the picture removals would have somehow affected them and the truth would be revealed in the future.

On the other side, if I ever had the idea of using anyone else’s pictures for the purpose of online dating, I would stop right away. It was not me who would do something like that. I would probably consider something else other than online dating. I might as well just be myself and start meeting people in real life. It would be way better than being someone else on the internet and always feeling insecure and scared.

The most common question that should be asked in this case is how are we going to have our information secured when we upload it to the internet. The limits of people who can download and access the information will help prevent cases mentioned in the article. It is also an encouragement to people who are still in doubt about the security of the Internet. Moreover, it will help sites such as
online dating websites, social media like Facebook, Instagram increase the revenue as more people are willing to join without the fear of having their pictures stolen.