

crooked letter 12: The Lust-Love Matrix

profile: Login

Welcome to The Lust-Love Matrix. Please choose a login name and password.

Login:

Password:

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Sorry that login was already taken. You might try DamnFineandSmartMan101 or OneDamnFineandSmartMan or DamnFineandSmartManLookingForLoveOrSex. Please try again.

Login:

Password:

Retype password:

Welcome to The Lust-Love Matrix. Here's a profile we think might interest you:

I am a single, thirty three year old white straight female. I recently entered the world of online dating, or perhaps I should say I logged onto the lust-love matrix. I began this venture because a relationship of three years ended this past April. While now he is one of my best friends and considered family by my folks, he is no longer my lover. It has only been a few months, but my lover hunger has decided that I am a bit peckish, and it is time for a snack.

I will not belabor the difficulties that a college town like Gainesville presents to the would be dater over 25 years of age. I already belabored that point in a play I wrote and produced three years ago right before I met my most current ex. Certain things do not change over time, though now I am more accepting of the constraints I face, even though the addition of three more years of valuable, hard won experience could make it even more challenging.

Gainesville being what it is, I turned my eyes online. I registered on several sites: on a couple of the sites I paid for that privilege. The little bit of money I spent has been worth it. I learned a valuable lessons about anonymous phone sex (see a later profile for details), gained a pen pal who happens to be a performer in England and meet a couple of nice men here in town. I've been on two dates, one perfectly charming and one nice but a little uptight and boring. (In each case this applies equally to the man in question as well as the specific date). Despite certain satisfactions, I will not be renewing my memberships to these sites.

I was contemplating unplugging completely from the lust-love matrix. Then I followed my ex's advice and logged on to okcupid.com, which is free. Now I am having entirely too much fun. This morning I chatted using the instant message function with new friends in New Zealand and England. I continued a couple of delightful, intelligent, sexy correspondences with two men, one in England and the other on the continent. I talked on the phone with someone in Jacksonville with whom I am trading lists of must listen to songs. And I politely and gently brushed off a few complimentary but rather annoying would be suitors.

Here are a few other random bits of goodness and joy that I have experienced. My friend in New Zealand is into Chomsky and mentioned it in the second email. And he has

expressed interest in things I've written, which is gratifying. I had someone else email me for further explanations of what I meant by atheist/mystic streak. My replies helped him sort through his own personal struggles integrating faith, thick theory and lefty ideology. I am playing a game of Questions via email with another person. Between my serve in the game and this particular person's return, he was contacted by a sister he has never met, and in his next email, I was honored to witness his joy. And I have learned much to my delight that attractive, intelligent men around the world find my body *and* mind alluring.

Not only have I learned fascinating things about complete strangers, I have learned so much about myself and what I want and where I fit and this after only a week or two of plugging in. I often have looked down my rather attractive nose at people attached at the belly button to their computers. Much to my chagrin, this loner extrovert, a term that has a profile of its own, finds this form of communication deeply satisfying.

There are downsides, but we will come to those profiles a little later in your session at The Lust-Love Matrix.