

DATE WISELY

Nina Lakovic



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**Navigate dating apps
with clarity, confidence,
and zero tolerance for fakery**

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What readers are saying ...

“I’m confident in my professional strengths, but I felt lost when it came to dating apps. **Date Wisely** provided strategies to help me explore online dating safely. My favorite line in the book was, “Dating apps are a journey, not a race — enjoy the ride.” — Albert, Columbus, Ohio

“I didn’t know what to expect, but Chapter 6, *Securing Your Personal Data*, helped me relax and enjoy the experience. It gave me practical guidance for describing who I am while protecting my personal information. — Sally, Upper Arlington, Ohio

“**Date Wisely** is a step-by-step tool for choosing the right app, setting realistic goals, sharing personal information that’s appropriate and engaging, avoiding common pitfalls, and protecting both your privacy and self-esteem. The result is a satisfying experience and authentic connections. — Mike, North Reading, Massachusetts

“I don’t have experience in online dating, but **Date Wisely** showed me how to get started with confidence and safety. The checklists in each chapter and the workbook in the appendix helped me improve my approach and understanding of how to safely use dating apps. — Martha, Columbus, Ohio



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CHAPTER 14

THE DELPHI EFFECT: WHAT'S OLD IS NEW



A better way to light a spark

The Delphi Effect is a rediscovery and appreciation of how things worked in the pre-Web days of social media. It's a way for people to connect other than the swipe-left/right "meet markets" of today's dating apps.

Wes Kussmaul, founder of the Authenticity Institute, describes it from first-hand experience:

“ In 1981 I launched the world's first online encyclopedia, which soon became the Delphi social network. Before we sold the business to Rupert Murdoch's News America Corp. a decade later, hundreds of thousands of couples had met on Delphi. Many of them later married.

Delphi didn't provide a dating service. Indeed, in those days social media was text-only, so there was no way to share pictures. Rather, people simply met in the various online clubs and gatherings and formed relationships based on the interests and values they shared. It



would have been considered uncool if you led by talking about your height, attractiveness – your features as a ***product***.

It occurred to me at the time, and I still believe, that the reason we spawned so many successful relationships and marriages was that when people connect with values, ideas, humor and conversation rather than by promoting their “features,” a resulting relationship is simply better ” in all respects.



The Delphi Effect
*Real connections
from conversation*

... not THAT



The “Meet Market”
*Shopping for
“products”*

Putting it into practice

To put the Delphi Effect into practice, the Authenticity Alliance has launched a social media platform ahead of the completion of its upcoming dating app (Trusted & True). In **DelphiEffect.org**, members join “clubhouses” to converse with other members with similar interests. Any member can create a new clubhouse around a topic of their own interest.



A meeting app – not a dating app

It's not a dating app – no questionnaires, no “matching,” no swipes, no “likes.” It's simply a meeting place, a hangout, a relaxed environment where people with similar interests can talk to each other and enjoy each other's company. If a spark should happen, you can send direct messages, move on to email, arrange to meet in person, or take any other action you choose.

EVIDENCE SHOWS that enduring relationships start with conversation, not dating app profiles.

Find your vibe in the clubhouses

The clubhouses are like virtual hangouts where you can geek out over your passions. Love sci-fi books? There's a clubhouse for that. Crazy about vegan cooking, hiking trails, or indie game dev? From stargazing to startup ideas, there's a spot for every interest. Think of them as cozy nooks where you can chat, laugh, and bond with people who just “get” you.

Don't see your thing? Start your own!

Can't find a clubhouse for your love of retro synthwave or backyard beekeeping? Build a community around your passion. Whether it's for your city, your hobby, or that quirky topic you thought only *you* loved, you can have your “place.” Share your thoughts, swap stories, and see where it leads. Whether you're looking for new pals, creative collaborators, or maybe a little spark of something more, it all starts with “hello.”

A safe place to be yourself

Of course, DelphiEffect.org follows the same principles as any other platform built on the Authenticity Infrastructure – no surveillance



capitalism, no stealing and selling your data , no algorithms or other tricks to make you stay online longer and generate more revenue.

Real connections begin with real talk. Curiosity and dialogue matter more than algorithms. Your words stay yours, and your connections stay human. You're not a product, you're a voice. Your ideas – not your selfies – open doors.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nina Lakovic is a social media strategist and writer with a deep interest in human connection, communication, and digital culture. Through her work in content creation and community-focused campaigns, she's seen firsthand how technology can both help and hinder meaningful relationships – especially in the world of online dating.

Motivated by countless conversations with friends, peers, and users frustrated with modern dating platforms, Nina wrote *Date Wisely* to offer a grounded, thoughtful resource for people who want to approach online dating with more awareness, intention, and self-respect.

She is also part of the team behind Trusted & True™, a new dating platform under development where every member is a real person accountable for what they say and do, building trust in the online dating space from the very first interaction.

Outside of her work, Nina is passionate about wellness, creativity, and living with purpose. She loves a peaceful morning coffee, meaningful conversations, fitness, exploring new places, and journaling about life's deeper questions. Her work reflects a belief that real connection starts with honesty – both with others and ourselves.

