

*A short story*

# 99 GONE WRONG

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*“Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw  
true beauty till this night.”*

— William Shakespeare, Romeo & Juliet

# PROLOGUE

*There is this thing about online dating. Dates don't show up, or they don't match with their photos, or they simply have a personality you can't handle and it's completely absurd to even expect something good out of it, but miracles do happen.*

# A START OVER

I NEVER BELIEVED IN ONLINE DATING.

21.05.06



*“If I had to label this part of my life as a friend’s episode, it would be ‘The one I didn’t see coming’ ”*

The bell finally rang, pulling me out of my staring trance. I’ve been looking out the window for about three minutes without actually seeing anything. I am not sure if I’m ready for my so called date with some guy my best friend Maureen had set me up for on some stupid dating site, which I don’t remember, Geez! Sometimes she gets on my nerves.



“Hello! I’m Nathaniel Dawson” He says in a musical way and I stare blankly at him  
“f-from the dating si-”he narrows his eyes and I interrupt  
“Oh! right, no, I know” I mutter sheepishly.

“I’m Eilish Rosewood” and we shake hands, his grip is firm, and his eyes lock with mine, his eyes are of a different shade of hazel brown, uncommon. His dazzling face was friendly. he directs his arms towards his cab, and I grab my handbag, and keys and get in the cab besides him, we sit in silence through the 5 min drive. We stop at Plowshares Coffee Bloomingdales.

He opens the door and gestures me to enter before, I blush and enter, the coffee shop has the perfect ambiance, kind of intimidating. Earlier I was mad at Maureen for setting me up for something this crazy, but, it’s not that bad. We choose the perfect spot, he pulls my chair and I sit, Such an old gesture, I can’t help it but I’m blushing. I have never dated someone before, it might be okay and normal for him but it’s new for me.



“So, Nathaniel, What do you do?” I feel like I’m interviewing him and I sneer at myself and smile my under confident smile kinda awkward. “Please call me Nate. I work at Presbyterian Hospital And I’m a surgeon” He smiles, flashing a little of his perfectly white teeth. I nod, he asks me the same “I’m a lawyer” I reply. We discussed a few things. We talk as if we know each other since forever, weird, for the first time I didn’t feel uncomfortable. “Eilish, It’s a beautiful name” He gives a warm smile. “Thankyou” I blush.

“Actually, I wanted to see a lawyer, I had some issues that might need your help” his expression gives away nothing. “Umm, so you’re here for work and not date?” I frown. wow, this is embarrassing, he laughs and shakes his head.



We walk back to my apartment, and we keep chattering on our way “ So, how many times have you done this online dating thing?” I ask him.

“About 99 times you’re the 100th date” and he looks down at me as I stare shocked at him. “ Are you serious?” “Very much”  
“That’s A lot of dat—”

“Before you assume anything, let me tell you, I have been quiet honest to all my dates, but some either didn’t show up, or were fake profile, or were just you know finding an escort to some date for a day, blah blah, But I showed up on each date with the same hope as on first but ———” He shrugs and doesn’t say anything after that, I look at him, his earnest expression, I could feel his honesty.

“Wow, I mean, I always knew these Dating sites are useless, still I didn’t imagine this much” I shrug



“eh? then why agree to go on a date with me?” he mocks me.

“oh! it’s my best friend Maureen, who set us up, I never do online dates or any date, it’s my first.” I look down at my path. He laughs as if he could make that out.



we reach my apartment, I call him in, as it’s heavily drizzling outside, it’ll be hard to find a cab. He comes in and hangs his coat, his shoulders are perfect shaped. He wanders in the living area and spots my music player, and asks me what was I listening to? and hits the play button before I could reply.

“Care to join me for a dance?” he puts out his hands, I laugh. As Ed Sheeran fills up the room, and I hold his hand and join him. We move slowly with the slow beats, it feels like we’ve known each other forever, that’s weird as it’s just been 3 hours.

“What were you gonna do if I didn’t show up as a date, today?” I ask interrupting our little dance.

“Well, I was about to sue the dating site as they guaranteed love in 1000 dates, it’s there in their terms and conditions . How can someone guarantee love like this? Love isn’t something you can promise. It just happens, I was so mad at the dating site earlier. That I

thought I'll get a lawyer " He says and I stare expressionlessly at him.

"Was that the reason you choose me as a date?" I scoff.

"Yes and No. But I think, I can't sue it anymore." He says with a serious face, and "Why is that?" The music was slowing, the song was almost over, but we couldn't stop dancing.

"I kinda like you" He whispers in my ear. I blush. DAMN girl, what's with this all time blushing.

"The first date would be too early to say anything," I reply. That's when the Spotify ad starts playing. We laugh at its timing.

21.05.09

It's been exactly three years to when we met and here  
We're getting married today.  
Maybe happily ever after is true.

