



## Does True Love Still Exist in the World of Me, Myself and I?

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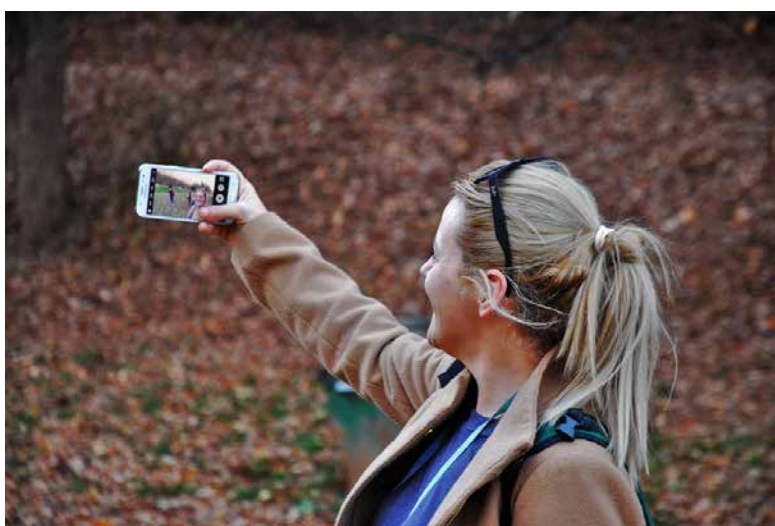
*"We are never so defenseless against suffering as when we love"*  
-Sigmund Freud

It's Friday night. You're sinking into your favorite chair. Hair freshly washed and toes manicured. You reach for a glass of red to your left and sigh. This is the life, you think- a Ferrero Rocher melting in your mouth. Does this constitute as a fulfilled existence or are you seeking more? Are you hoping for true love to come traipsing in your front door- a tall, dark and handsome hero to sweep you off your feet? Or are you happy snapping a pic of your newest pair of Wittner boots and spending the night watching Married at First Sight? Social media, norms and expectations have impacted on the modern day dating scene. This leaves us asking the question, does true love still exist?

### A Skewed Love

In a world where social pressures engulf us, we are afforded an acceptance of pure self-indulgence.

Overwhelmed with liberation, this perceived freedom to pamper oneself stems from a long line of societal revolutions. Modernizing the Greek myth of Narcissus (a man whose vanity led to him falling in love with his own reflection), today we float amidst a sea of selfies, which, in reality, may not perfectly depict their subject at all. Similarly, social media identity misrepresentation is at an all time high: encouraging account holders to put their 'best foot forward.' The aims of portraying a glamorous lifestyle full of successes, social events and sexy scenery can lead the thirst for online 'likes.' This inauthentic representation in effect leads to the next question- do we truly love ourselves at all?



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### Traditions of love

Expressions of love have evolved greatly over time. In the early 1900's boys were to ask parents of the girl they fancied for permission to spend time together. Parents predominantly supervised these meetings and commented as to whether the two were compatible on an intellectual and emotional level. It wasn't until the 20s that kids started rebelling and sneaking out for unsupervised dates. In the 40s, the term 'going steady' was coined and deemed official when the man gave his lady a piece of his clothing. Premarital sex became more common in the 50s and friends had more influence in approving of partners than family members. With the introduction of birth control in the 60s, ideas about dating changed and the 'hook up' culture began. This emphasized immediate attraction and forgave those who weren't interested in beginning a committed relationship. In all cases, both parties met face to face and spent a deal of time together. This is not to say that all fleeting meetings didn't turn into full-fledged love affairs. Some flings developed into long-term relationships that continued on steadily into the future. Juxtaposed with today's meetings, in some ways these are not dissimilar. Modern day lovers may meet in bars, cafes and catch up with friends. The more disparate factors lay with online dating sites such as Tinder and Clinks.



*Echo and Narcissus 1903 by John William Waterhouse.*



*Conversation in a Park  
Thomas Gainsborough 1727 - 1788*

quick 'yes' or 'no' response to a potential lover with a flick of a finger. While this may be a convenient stay at home in your PJs form of dating, the culture surrounding personal ideals then becomes inflated. Despite knowing nothing about the person on screen (apart from their- maybe deceiving- photo), users can quickly reject or accept an individual. If love has become this superficial, will any one find true, whole, fulfilling love today?

We remain uncertain about true love and if it can exist today, in a world where we are constantly forced to play a balancing act between acceptance, reality and what is right. Social identity, acceptable self-love and embarking on quests to find 'the one' increase our confusion around conventional methods. In a world of me, myself and I, will true love become an instagram like from a mystical private profile?

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### Face Value Face Swipes

As mentioned above, the social pressures to conform are incredibly overwhelming today. Dating apps such as Tinder allow users a

