

Day in the life of Robert

It's Friday – the day most people are desperately waiting for so they can finally forget about work and embrace the comfort of the weekend.



As on every Friday, Robert strictly followed his “end-of-the-week” ritual: he clocked out of work (he works as an engineer), got in his car (a nice BMW 5 reflecting his above-average income), drove through a place to snag a burger, then went straight home.

Like on autopilot, Robert entered his apartment, turned on his game console and hopped on a Discord call with several of his friends. He sat down on the big couch facing the TV screen and ran his favorite video game – FIFA.



Was Robert super looking forward to another Friday night in front of the TV screen playing video games with his geeky friends? Not really. But what else was there that he could do... He was a single man at the ripe age of 35... with no girlfriend... no “special someone” he could take to a restaurant for dinner, or spend the night with.

Sure, he could just relax and tell himself that “the right person will one day come”. In fact, he used to believe that... Until one day he looked around and realized he was falling behind – his friends were in loving relationships, some of them getting married, having kids, and experiencing the juiciest moments of life with their better half. Yet there Robert was... feeling chronically single... like an outlier in a world full of couples.

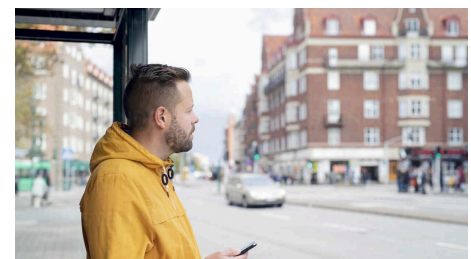


Thankfully, he had secured himself a date tomorrow. He was going to take a girl to a coffee shop. But the thing is... he thought she was out of his league. So the pressure was there. He knew he had to impress the girl, or else she wouldn't like him.

Robert was naturally analytical. That's why since the moment he scheduled the date, he's been overthinking simple questions like “How do I greet her?”, “What do I say?”, “Do I give her a hug?”, “Should I smile when I see her?”, “What should I order in the coffee shop?”, “Should I ask her where she's from?”, and many others. Like unsolved mathematical equations, these questions were driving his mind crazy. And for a reason. After all, he wanted to do everything perfectly. If he made a mistake on the date, he thought, the girl was going to give him a weird look and turn him down, leaving him embarrassed, disappointed, and once again... alone.

The next day before the date

Robert arrives at the place where he's supposed to meet his date. He's about 5 minutes early (he was afraid that if he was late, this would leave a terrible impression on the girl and she'll immediately be repelled).



5 minutes later – the arranged time when they had to meet

The girl still hasn't shown up.

Robert is feeling a bit nervous. "What if she forgot about the date? What if she doesn't show up?" Anxious thoughts start to creep in... slowly conquering his mind.



The girl finally arrives – she's 5 minutes late.

She greets Robert and makes an excuse why she was late.

"No problem!" – Robert answers, afraid to confront her in any way as she might not like that. (He's being agreeable – typical nice guy behaviour.)

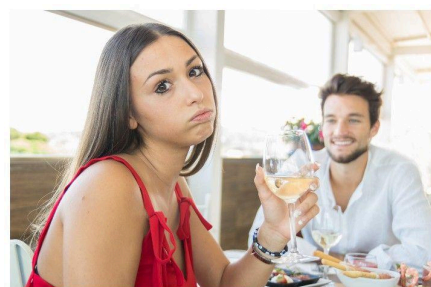
They go to a coffee shop. Sit at a table. Order drinks.

Robert starts off the conversation by asking her the same old boring interview-style questions like "Where are you from?" and "What are your hobbies?". The girl has been getting these questions from other average guys so much that the spark in her eyes that used to be there a moment ago is now starting to fade away. Her excitement drops.



Deep down Robert knows he has a lot to offer in a relationship (after all, he's kind, generous, and caring). What's more, his friends have been telling him that he's a "great catch". That's why he wants to convey that same message to the girl.

"If only I can show her who I really am... if only I can give her a glimpse into my interesting, special, and thoughtful personality... then she would fall for me." – he thinks.



That's why when the girl asks him a question, Robert takes the opportunity to share more about himself. Unfortunately, he starts oversharing, revealing the depths of his personality, not knowing the girl doesn't care and that this is the perfect formula for getting a woman bored, instead of getting her wet.

Like a university professor teaching quantum physics, Robert is leveraging the power of logic, not understanding that to get a woman interested, he needs to tap into her emotions.

The date is about to end...

Both of them say goodbye to each other.

"I had a great time" – says Robert.



“Me too” – she answers. (Robert hears that and thinks he’s nailed the date.)

Both of them go their own way.

Going back home, Robert’s in his head, analyzing how the date went. He remembers the girl was playing with her hair a few times. He even once made a bad joke and she laughed.

“She must be into me” – Robert thinks.



He goes back home and shoots her a message: “Did you arrive home safely?”

He doesn’t receive a reply for an hour, so he thinks she’s probably gone to sleep already.

Proud of himself and the success of his date, Robert goes to sleep.

The next day

Robert wakes up, and the moment he opens his eyes he checks his phone to see if the girl has replied to his message. No reply...

“She’s probably busy” – Robert’s brain tries to come up with a comfortable explanation, avoiding the harsh reality.



As the day goes by, Robert keeps checking his phone every two minutes to see if the girl has replied.

However... slowly but surely he understands... the girl will never answer his message. He’s been ghosted yet another time by yet another girl.

This hurts him. And he’s so confused. He thought she was into him... He thought he played his cards well. Trying to figure out where he messed up, Robert comes up with the most obvious conclusion – the girl didn’t like him because he’s not tall, he’s not jacked like a weightlifter, he’s not rich, and doesn’t drive a Lambo. This seems to be the most logical explanation...

Notes:

Let loose and be your own charming self without freezing up or being in your head too much, thinking of the right things you need to say to her and how not to screw it up...

Feeling sad and disappointed, he sits down in front of the TV, grabs his console, turns on Baldur's Gate 3 and immerses himself into a virtual world where he at least can solve strategic problems (because he can't solve his problems with women), build his character (because he can't build his character in real life or one women are obsessed with).

You dislike yourself right now and feel unworthy of love.

Several days after, he sees the girl and asks her if she wants to go out with him, but she gives him the friend zone speech.

running out of things to say => awkward silence

Playing video games was like pressing the right buttons at the right time. Getting women interested was like pressing their attraction buttons at the right time. But Robert hadn't learned how to play this game yet.

Here you can tell me which elements I've missed:

Robert knew he was stuck in a rut: he had zero relationship experience with women so he was radiating sort of a "virgin" energy that was keeping women away like a bad smell.