**Is Love Blind?**

Emily: One day in 2018, Danielle Drouin, who was 27 at the time, got an Instagram message she was pretty sure was spam. Something about participating in an experiment, and about reality TV. She just ignored it. But it turned out the message was from a producer of a real reality TV show that was set to debut on Netflix, and they wanted to know if she would be interested in participating. Eventually they did get ahold of her.

Danielle: So they told me what their goal was which is that people nowadays, especially in our age group, are having a hard time making real connections, and it’s so easty to just find another option. they’re just swiping swiping swiping, they go on one date and they never really try. It’s so easy to find something better and the grass is greener… this little game. No one rly puts their true self out there anymore. And I was about it, I was like, you’re preaching to the choir, this is why I don’t really date. I would love to be a part of something like this. I’m in!

Emily: What Danielle had agreed to be a part of turned out to be the hit Netflix reality tv show “Love is Blind.”

Welcome to Love in the Time of Everyone, where we tell stories about the way relationships have changed your time. I’m your host, Emily Dieckman. If you haven’t seen “Love is Blind,” good for you for not watching reality TV. And if you have seen it, good for you because I loved that show. My mom and I watched it together in the early days of COVID-19 lockdowns in the U.S.

So, if you’ve been living under a rock or something, the premise of Love is Blind is that a group of people go on these quote-on-quote blind dates. As in, the people on the date are in two separate rooms, talking through a wall. they hear each other, but they can’t see each other. The idea was to see whether people would be able to fall in love, and even get engaged, without knowing what the other person looked like.

Apparently, yeah, they can. When I watched the 10-episode first season of the show, I thought it was going to be solely focused on the couples’ times getting to know each other in these separate rooms, what the show calls “the pods.” Then they’d get engaged after, like a few weeks, the show would end, and it would be wild. But, actually, they only spend 10 days in the pods.

In the first episode of the show, just five days into the experiment. Cameron Hamilton proposes to Lauren Speed. And she says yes! For the record, they know this sounds insane. There’s this really funny line where Lauren says quote “five days in I know who I want to be my future husband. I can’t believe it. It’s only been five days. Oh my god I’ve had meals in my refrigerator longer than that. That’s crazy.”

I was hardly expecting one couple to get engaged, let alone six. Clearly neither were the contestants. And apparently, neither were the producers.

If you’ve seen the show, you probably remember six couples that got engaged, went on trips to Mexico, and then five of them that went on to live together for a few weeks before having weddings. Not all of them ended up getting married.

But, actually, eight couples got engaged in the show, but we only saw six of their stories. Today, Danielle talks about her experience on the show falling in love, getting engaged, and later watching the show and being surprised to see it looked like she wasn’t even there. But let’s back up.

Danielle: I had, like, at that point I was like just done I feel like I was at a point where I was like I’m gonna be single for the rest of my life, because I had just so many crappy boyfriends and I, like, poured my heart and soul into these relationship and I just had so many bad relationships and I was like, “Is there anybody good out there anymore? Probably not.” In my head I convinced myself, “I’ll probably just be single forever.”

Me: So she agrees to do this thing, which the producers keep referring to as “the experiment” making it sound honestly kind of cult-like. She hands over her phone, takes some time off work, and tells her family she’s off to do this thing she can’t explain, and will be unreachable for awhile.

They get there, and the contestants are separated by gender. Obviously, the men and women can’t see each other, or that defeats the point. But the women realize they actually have some friends in common. All of the contestants were from Atlanta, so some of them knew each other already. For example. Kelly and Jessica, who both got engaged and were featured throughout the show were already friends, for example. But neither of them knew that the other person would be there.

Another thing that all the contestants had in common, besides living in Atlanta, is that they were conventionally beautiful. My mom and I were joking while we were watching it about how the show wasn’t REALLY testing whether love was blind. Like, how big of a risk is it if you know you’re going to end up with a hottie no matter what? Maybe this hottie isn’t your usual type, but they’re going to have, like, perfect teeth, and an amazing figure. or whatever. They’re not going to, god forbid, be fat, or be visibly disabled, or have severe acne, or any of these actually stigmatized things in our society. I think most people have the sense that conventionally attractive people have better lives, or at least easier lives. Our culture – maybe most cultures, associates beauty with goodness, right? And this pays off for some people.

This is of course not meant to disparage conventionally beautiful people. Genuinely, Good for beautiful people for being beautiful. This is an observation, not an attack. Anyway, I wanted to talk to an expert about this idea, of attractive people having better or easier lives. Like, is that true?

Viren: I’m Viren Swami I’m a professor of social psychology at Angela Ruskin University. And one of the things I look at is interpersonal relationships and why we form relationships. I’ve written a book called Attraction Explained, which is now in its second edition.

Emily: Viren told me there’s a huge range of studies that show that attractive people basically receive a premium in their every day lives. Just a few examples he a gave: Attractive people are more likely to be hired, less likely to be hired, tend to receive higher starting wages.

Viren: If you are ever in a vehicle accident, you’d better hope that the people who come to help you perceive you to be attractive, because they’re much more likely to help an attractive victim compared to someone who’s less attractive.

Even in kindergarten, attractive children are more likely to be treated positively by their teachers, and they tend to have wider social circles as well. Probably the best example, though, of this kind of premium for attractiveness come from dating. On online dating sites, for example, attractive daters are much more likely to be asked out on dates, they’re much more likely to receive messages from potential suitors. They’re much more likely to go on dates, and, according to at least one study, they’re even more likely to have sex and enjoy the sex that they have when they are perceived to be attractive.

Emily: I think another example of this “pretty privilege,” I guess you could say, is that the people on this show didn’t have to worry, or worry too much, that they would fall in love with someone who’d never seen them and then have that person meet them and be disappointed. And, you know, vice versa: knowing that the people on the other side of the wall are all generally attractive means that you don’t have to worry, or worry too much, about falling in love an later realizing you can’t be with this person because of the way they look. Like, you’re all kind of on the same page, or I guess you could say in the same league. But Danielle says the contestants actually didn’t know that.

Danielle: When I saw all the other girls I was like, “Wow everybody is so beautiful.” So then I started to think about crazy conspiracy theories, right? I was like, “What if all the guys are really hideous?” like are they trying to set us up? Like, that really… we were talking about that. We were like, “What if they’re trying to set us up? What if it’s not a bunch of, you know, not-so-attractive guys to show the world it’s not about looks and stuff like that?” And then we were like, “Well what if they’re not even people at all. Oh my gosh. What if it’s like her, and it’s a bunch of artificial intelligence. Because we didn’t know. We were only with the women. Like I was only with the women and the guys were only with the guys. I know that the guys had similar thoughts, because we spoke about ii afterwards. But at a point we started poking at production, anybody we could, and were like, “No, no no, like tell us, are they okay looking? Please. Like, is this somebody I really will be okay with?” And they were like, “Yes, do you see all the women, all the guys are the same, equal or whatever par, whatever, you know what I mean?” And we were like, “Okay, that’s great. I hope so.”

Emily: so, that anxiety lifted, they start spending time in the pods. These are looong days. Danielle said sometimes, they would literally spend 20 hours a day in the pods.. It started off with all of the women going on short dates with all of the men. So, they all got to meet each other. At the end of each day, they would give producers a list of the people they liked best, the people they were connecting with the most. And then the producers would, like, algorithmically shift things around so that everyone had more time with the people they were vibing with, and everyone’s pool got smaller and smaller.

But, again backing up, on day one, date one, Danielle walked into a pod and this guy says hi.

Danielle: I opened the door, and I was so nervous, because, you know we had to walk down that crazy red hallway it was all the way at the very end and I was like, I felt like I was sweating, I don’t know if I was. But I was just so nervous. And I opened the door, and all of a sudden I just heard this voice, and he’s just like, “Hey, hello!” And it was Rory. And honestly this huge weight was lifted off of my shoulders when I just heard him say hello. And we just connected instantly and I was like, “Okay, this is real. He’s such a great guy, I feel so much more comfortable now this is a real thing, because, you know you’re so skeptical until you’re there. We connected right way and from the beginning I was trying to like dib him like, “He’s my guy, Rory Rory Rory,” and then, you know, I was connecting a lot with the other guys as well and had some really amazing conversations, but Rory had my heart.

Emily: but then, a few days later, Danielle starts to feel like she’s really connecting with this other guy, Matt. It’s so weird, and they’re spending these hours and hours every day talking to each other and not seeing each other, and like, they’re a few days away from “proposal day.”

Danielle: I was really surprised how quickly we grew so close because I’ve always been a very open I’ve always been a very open person and I feel like I wear my heart on my sleeve and I think it’s important to talk about things in your past and kind of bring up why you are the way you are or why you have certain views or, you know, things like that. But it was rly amazing to be in an environment where everybody was on the same page on how quickly we were all telling each other our deepest, darkest secrets, our lowest points, our hardest tragedies we’ve gone through, our biggest achievements, our childhoods. Just really serious stuff, like serious stuff. I mean, Rory knew everything about me after day 4 probably, I felt like I told him every secret of my life.

Emily: it’s funny, because, when you watch the show, this is so not clear. The footage you see is of people agreeing about near-universal topics, like “family is important to me.”

Or there’s this one scene where a woman says “Integrity’s everything. I’m definitely super Christian” and the guy she’s talking to, who turns out to be her future fiancé, says, “Wow, we’re the same person!” What?! Or one woman says that the thing she likes about a guy is that he “has a good personality,” and that he has morals, and that he likes to travel.

Danielle agreed that the footage shown on the show made some of the connections people were forming, a lot of which were really intense, and based on super important, super real information, seem weirdly shallow.

Danielle and that’s all people saw. And they were like, “Oh, look, oh they connected over Chicago and Italian beef.” And it’s like, “No.” It was so much more than that. Like I was in there, like crying my eyes out talking about how my best friend passed away when I was a teenager and how it changed the course of my life and how I had to raise my younger siblings, and so many deep things. We were rly falling in love with somebody’s spirit and their true character and that’s what they chose?! That’s what they chose to show?! What?!

So, like she said, connections are forming fast and furious. Danielle’s got strong feelings for two people, and she doesn’t know what to do. It’s happening more quickly and with more intensity than she expected.

Danielle: I can’t even explain to you how bizarre it was because you would think that it would be difficult and you would think that there would be just too much going on and, you know, you’re on camera and there’s all these crew there and you’re not even seeing the person, right? So you’d think it would be hard but it was so easy. And honestly, they created I feel like the perfect environment to thrive and to make that really intense human connection because they took everything away from us first. And that’s a huge thing now, you know. In this day and age because people are so connected so social media and their phone and they’re never really present. And that’s a huge problem. It’s hard to connect to people and even have a conversation because they’re not present.

They took everything from us. They stripped us of everything. We didn’t have our phones we didn’t have our family. We were just at this place. We couldn’t leave. We only had each other, and we were there to only do one thing. And we had no downtime to do anything else. We didn’t have books, we didn’t have tv, we didn’t have music. So it’s like, we were forced to sit with our thoughts, who we were as a person, what we wanted out of a relationship and what our ideal partner looks like to us as we navigated through, you know, this crazy speed dating sort of situation.

Emily: Okay, see what I mean about how it sounded like it could possibly be a cult, though? Anyway, I asked Viren why he thought these connections might be forming so quickly and intensely.

In his book, he writes about a phenomenon called the misattribution of arousal, a term coined by the researchers Stanley Schacter and Jerome Singer. Basically, this concept is that when you experience physiological arousal, like a fast heartrate or sweating, it’s possible to misinterpret the source of that arousal. For example, researchers have found that if you ride a roller coaster next to someone, you rate the person as more attractive after the ride than you would before. It’s like, “I’m sweaty, my heart is racing, I don’t know! Maybe it’s because this person is hot! Maybe it’s because I like them!” You know? I wondered if maybe this is what was happening to the contestants. They’re in this really intense environment, no outside contact, 20 hours a day of talking to potential partners, surrounded by camera crews. Danielle mentioned that racing heart and nervous sweat on her first day.

So, knowing all of this, could they just be experiencing intense pressure, or excitement, or something, and mislabeling that in their minds as love? Viren said he doesn’t think so, actually.

Viren: I suspect there’s something more general going on. If you’ve already invested so much in the show, you’ve had your phone taken away from you, you’ve been secluded, you can’t talk to your friends you can’t tell anyone about the show for a specific amount of time, or whatever, your life changes. And the way you negotiate that life change might be to say “I really need this to be successful. I really need this to work.” It’s simply a kind of psychological defense mechanism, because if it doesn’t work, you’ve wasted all that time. You’ve wasted all that energy and that effort going this show, having been secluded from your friends, your family, so what was it all for? You want it to work, and you’re invested in it working.

Emily: So, Danielle is still wrestling with these super strong feelings for two different people. Rory and Matt are friends, actually, and they each know about Danielle’s relationship with the other person. If you watched the show, you know they weren’t the only people with this problem. There’s definitely a couple of love triangle type things going on. The way she talks about her feelings in this time make it sound like there might be something to Viren’s theory

Danielle: And, for some reason I did feel this crazy pressure that I had to make a decision. Like, I don’t know why, but I really did, I had this pressure that I felt like I had to make a decision, when there was more than just two options in reality. I could have left with no none. I could have left and just figured my life out, right? They weren’t going to be gone forever in reality. Like, I could have, like you know. but at the time you had invested so much into it for the process and for everything, like, and I was in a different headspace, and I felt like, “Oh I need to make a decision. It’s weird, it’s like a different reality almost.

Emily: It comes down to what the show called “engagement day” or, like the deadline for people to get engaged if they want to.

Danielle: I talked to Matt first that day he basically just put his whole heart out there, and he told me that he did not want to play by the rules and that he wanted to continue our relationship, but he did not want to do it the way that they wanted to. So he said that he was leaving and asked me to leave as well and that we could continue our relationship outside of what the show wanted for us and having to get married on their terms and that kind of thing.

I told him that I didn’t know what I was going to do and that I was so sorry, but I couldn’t give him a decision without talking to Rory first. And I was like, “I don’t know what I’m going to do. I’m sorry. I really care about you. I was crying. I was, like, such a baby.

Emily: Then she went to see Rory. Rory was ready to get engaged, to see this journey they’d started together through to the end. Danielle felt like he was committed to the process, to seeing this through, and when she talked to him, she felt at ease. They spend some time talking, and as their time was coming to a close, it happens. The contestants on the show could send each other gifts, so, a few days before, Danielle had sent Rory a box of Lincoln Logs as a little token. She had grown up in a log cabin, and it was this cute gesture that she told him represented wanting to build a home with him someday in the future.

Danielle: So, engagement day we didn’t actually have rings or anything and we were proposing through a wall and I still didn’t actually know if he was 100% going to propose, like I didn’t know. Like, we talked about, like “it,” like proposing, but I really had no idea what was going to happen when I wen int there. He had them leave one Lincoln Log in my room and he had a Lincoln Log and he wore, like, a lumberjack shirt.

And he was like, “Pick up your Lincoln Log.” He’s like, “I’m holding my Lincoln Log.” And he got down on one knee and he asked me to marry him with a Lincoln Log through a big screen. I said yes. We had waited until the very last second do this, like our tie was up, so they were basically like “5… 4…” like counting us down, so it was very like, “Will you marry me?!” and, like, “Yeah, I’ll marry you!” It was very emotional. Then, after that, then you’re like, “Oh my god, I’m engaged. What? Is this real?”

Emily: Danielle and Rory didn’t get to meet face-to-face until the next day. She said it was the longest day of her life.

Danielle: all of us girls were so anxious and, I swear, we all fixed our hair and our makeup like 25 times that day, just anxiously awaiting the moment. Like, we are all scared shitless, and if anyone says anything different, they’re lying. We were so nervous and you know they had that crazy long walkway in between us and they were on one side and we were on the other and they opened the doors at that moment and there’s this red carpet in between. And it was crazy. And there was this huge crew, with, like, 45, 50 people watching us. And it was a special moment that everything else just cancelled around it was just us there you know?

Emily: So, good news: Rory and Danielle did find each other attractive, which, we already talked about, is not actually that surprising. They’re both attractive. But Viren had couple of interesting things to say about how getting to know people without seeing their faces can affect your opinion of how they look.

Viren: So, one of the things we know is that when you have information, nonphysical information about a person, it can influence how you perceive them physically. This is about what we call “halo bias.” The halo bias is where one component of my being affects how I’m rated on another component. And typically, what psychologists might do is they say how someone is perceived in terms of their personality or their sense of humor might affect how they’re perceived physically.

Emily: He uses himself as an example here: Say you meet Viren, and you’re like, “Yeah, he’s not bad looking. I’d give him a 6 out of 10, I guess.” But then you have a conversation with him, you’re laughing and enjoying yourselves and having a good time. He just seems fun! It’s not unlikely that, if you were asked to rate him again after this interaction, you might give him, say, an 8 out of 10. Because you’re incorporating new information. But this can also extend a step further.

Viren: And there’s another version of tis, which is what my colleagues call the “Love is Blind” bias, which is that when people enter into a relationship, they perceive each other as more attractive, firstly more attractive than themselves, but then also more attractive than would objective observers. WE call this the Love is Blind Bias because, it’s actually a term from Shakespeare, but the kind of analogy here is wearing rose-tinted glasses. When you perceive this person who you’re in a relationship with, and you like them very much, and you love them, and you care for them, you’re essentially putting on rose tinted glasses and you’re perceiving them through these kind of rose-tinted glasses. Everything’s beautiful, but your partner is more beautiful than ever before.

Emily: Researchers think that the love is blind bias might exist because it makes you feel good, you know? If you think your partner is more attractive than you, then you feel like you’re punching above you weight. It also might mean that you’re more willing to invest in the relationship to maintain it. Maybe we’re designed to be this way to help relationships last. Maybe, and this is me speculating, not a researcher, the contestants really would have found each other attractive no matter what. But, ultimately, viren is skeptical about the show’s premise, or about the idea that appearances might not matter at all.

Viren: I guess the other really important thing is, if anything what the producers really want us to question is, “How important is appearance to a relationship?” The short answer is it’s incredibly important, but even if you kind of set that aside, can you form a relationship with someone based on nonphysical traits alone? And, again, the short answer is you could probably get to that point. Where you can form a meaningful relationship with someone without seeing what they look like. And lots of people may actually end up doing that. I mean, we’re kind of basing our whole conversation here on cited individuals and being able to visually see someone.

But even if you get to the point where you’re able to form a meaningful connection with someone and at some point you end up seeing that person it may skew your judgement of that person. I’ll give you an example from my own personal life. Years ago, I went out on a date with this person who seemed like a very nice person. Actually, she was a very nice person. But when I met her in real life, we’d met online, when I met in real life, she reminded me physicaly of an aunt I have. And that, for me, was nsoemething I coun’t get past. IT had nothing to do wither because she was attractive and she was phycially attractive and also a very nice human behing. But this kind of randomness is something that you can’t predict. And it’s very difficult to get to a point where you can say you have enough information to be able to say “I can predict with enough accuracy that wo pl are going to have a meaningful, solid, great relationship.” You can’t get to that point. I guess what these kind of reality shows are ending up doing is giving you a false impression of what relationship formation is really like

It tells you you can separate all these different components out, and if you get to a magic quotient somehow that you’ll be able to predict with some degree of accuracy whether two people will be happy with each other.

Emily: one thing Danielle does want people to know is that it was real. Whether it makes sense or not, and whether lasting and long-term love came of it or not, the contestants were truly invested in the process,

Danielle: You know, we all went on the show truly with our hearts on our sleeves ready to find love and were all real people and were all and diving into this vulnerable state. And, yah. It was real. I know a lot of people questioned it and thought it was fake, and they’re like, “There’s no way it can be real. There’s no way people can make connections like that fast.” Or “Who falls in love in a separate room? Like, that’s crazy.” One thing I just want to just tell people is it truly was real. Emotions and everything, it was all real, the whole time.

Emily: after everyone has their big grand meetings, the men and women get separated again to go stay in a hotel. The next step is for the newly engaged couples to head to a resort in Mexico to get to know each other in person. However, instead, the production team told two the couples that they hadn’t expected the experiment to work so well, and that they simply didn’t have the crew to follow all those stories. They’d decided to “cut” two couples, out of the eight who had gotten engaged, from the running.

Danielle: and they were like, so we had to make a decision, and some people got cut. So they basically... It was so hard for me to process all of this, I was like, “What? like was just like, “What? Excuse me? What are you saying?” So, they were like, “So you’re free to go.” And I was like, “What do you mean free to go? Where do I go?” “Oh, you can go home. This is it.” “What? What do you mean?” And they were like, “Oh, but Rory’s downstairs” and I was like, “Oh, okay.” I was like, like, after that, I was just like, “Okay. I guess I’ll get more information later.” I was really just so shocked and so confused. So are we still engaged? Is it real? Are we really engaged? What do we do? Do we get married? Do we go home right now and tell our families we’re engaged? What are we allowed to say? Are we even allowed to say that? Do we have to pretend like we don’t know each other? What do we do? You know?

Emily: They went to Rory’s house and tried to think of the game plan. Danielle waited a solid 24 hours before telling anyone she was back from her secret adventure. It was just… so bizarre, being suddenly thrown back in the real world.

Danielle: And without any kind of plan for us. They didn’t, I guess they didn’t t know, they didn’t prepare for this. But, I mean, we were not prepared for anything. And I’m like, “I thought I was engaged. I thought I was getting married.” And now you’re telling me,” Okay, do what you want.” What?!

Emily: When Danielle does turn her phone back on, she starts getting messages from Matt. He found her online and was telling her about he she was in love with her. This is overwhelming. Danielle told me they were pretty much all out of their minds. A few days later, they had a get together with the people from the show who weren’t in Mexico—the other couple who had been booted off and all of the people who didn’t get engaged. I’m going to give you an in-a-nutshell rundown of what happened from there.

Danielle and Rory dated for awhile, but she had these unresolved feelings for Matt that she felt like she needed to sort through, so she broke it off with Rory. She was single for a little while, and then started hanging out with Matt and dating him. Eventually, they broke up too. Matt wanted an open relationship, and Danielle didn’t. ~~There~~ were some weird patches, but everyone is on good terms now.

Danielle: I don’t have any hard feelings or anything like that anymore. You live and you learn. I’m a 100 percent true believer in everything happens for a reason and literally, timing is everything, right? Timing is everything? So, now I’m in an amazing relationship with my boyfriend Kerrington. He’s just like the best thing ever in the world and I’m just so lucky to have him. Honestly, blessed.

Emily: Danielle and Kerrington have been friends for over nine years, but had never gotten together. If you watched the After the Altar Special that came out in summer 2021, you might have seen Danielle and Kerrington there together. And, since we did this interview, she and Kerrington have gotten engaged! They’re planning to get married later in 2022. Danielle says her time on the show helped her get to where she is now, because it made her do some serious reflection about who she is, what she wants and what’s best for her. Rory and Matt have both said similar things in interviews. Rory told People magazine that his connections on dates have been, quote “infinitely better. Matt told Screen Rant the experience changed his life and the way he connected with people.

So, the show clearly had some positive outcomes. But what about the original experiment, that central hypothesis?

Emily: all throughout the show, the hosts, Nick and Vanessa Lachey, repeat the irresistible refrain. I had to ask viren for his professional opinion. Is love blind?

Viren: It depends what you mean because I don’t think it’s actually love that they’re looking at on the show because it’s a v skewed form of attraction. This is a whole separate podcast I suspect, but what is love?

As a social psychologist, I kind of understand love as something that’s kind of exchanged between two people. It’s how we do love, rather than how we feel love. And that is a really difficult concept for a lot of people to understand because we kind of process love a this emotion that we feel. Its’ something that we feel inside ourselves when we care about someone. I understand love as a social psychologist as how we demonstrate love. What do you do for other people that means you’re in love that demonstrates you’re in love. Are you exchanging affection? Are you demonstrating your care, are you demonstrating your warmth, are you demonstrating compassion for the other person?

That, for me, is real love. And you don’t really have that on a show like a reality tv program, partly because everyone’s watching what you’re doing, and how you behave is incredibly skewed when everyone’s watching. But also in that very, very short time it’s really difficult to demonstrate these kind of exchanges of mutual care that demonstrate real love. So I don’t believe they’re actually talking bout love on that show. Love takes time to develop, it takes nurturing. It takes care, it takes compassion to form real love. What they’re really talking about is probably closer to attraction. Are they attracted? And is attraction blind? It sometimes can be, but often it’s not.

Emily: spoken like a true academic. I don’t ask Danielle the exact same question, but I do ask her for any final thoughts She said if she had to go back, she would do it all over again.

Danielle: There’s not way you can’t grow from this situation. The way people’s lives changed after this was insane. People were quitting their jobs to start their passion and career. People were moving and all this stuff. It was very eye opening an life changing for all of us on a million different kinds of levels. So I would recommend it. I think he experiment does work. Maybe it’ unconventional. But it worked. I can honestly say that.

Emily: Thanks so much for listening to this episode of Love in the Time of Everyone. If you liked the show, please subscribe, rate and share with a friend. Thank you to Danielle for sharing her story about her time on and after the show, and for helping me look beyond the Italian beef and see the show in a new way. and thank you to Viren Swami of Angelia Ruskin University for his expertise and insights. Check out his book, Attraction Explained – he was funny and insightful in our conversation, and his humor and wit come through in the book as well. and thank you, of course to the Creators of Love is Blind for the entertainment, I love you. Thank you to Bridgitte Thum for teaching me so much about podcasting, to Kxci for being this podcast’s home. to Jeff Gardner for the podcast art, and to Local Kindergartner for the theme music. The local kidnergartner EP, spine, is available on Bandcamp.

The obvious quote to leave you with is one from Shakespeare:

“love is blind  
and lovers cannot see  
the pretty follies  
that themselves commit”

But here’s a bonus one I thought was even more appropriate, from Jean Paul Sartre:  
"It's quite an undertaking to start loving somebody. You have to have energy, generosity, blindness. There is even a moment right at the start where you have to jump across an abyss: if you think about it you don't do it."