



Weblogs

Vikki Ortiz: Plus or Minus One

Vikki Ortiz, a pop culture and features writer for the Journal Sentinel, writes about the adventures, disappointments, relationships and revelations of 20- and 30-somethings living in Milwaukee. [RSS](#)

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Match Dot Bomb

It can be easy to forget that the word “single” also applies to people outside their 20s and 30s.

But this morning, I had an inspiring phone interview with a woman in her late 50s who most certainly belongs to the club.

The woman, Francine Pappadis Friedman, found herself unexpectedly single after her husband died a few years ago.

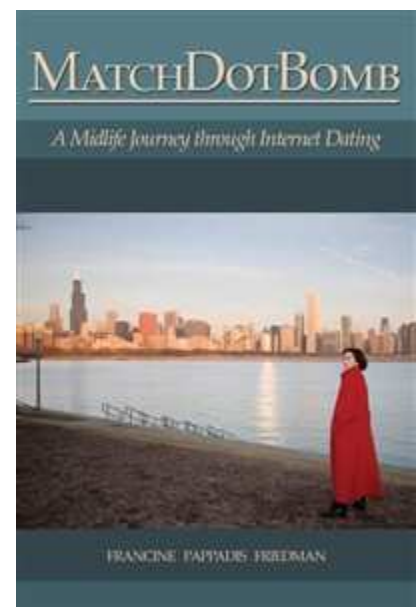
Friends encouraged her to put herself back out there, which, considering she was 19 years old when she married and spent the next 30 years as half of a couple, was much easier said than done.

Friedman decided to try online dating and posted her profile on Match.com. But her experiences weren't always the greatest. One guy called her “the love of his life” on her voicemail every time he left a message. She later found out he was doing the same thing to one of her girlfriends who was also on Match.

Other men came a lot of anger to the dates. And then there were also the good guys – who never called again.

After each of the dates, Friedman went home and e-mailed her friends accounts of the dates. The friends found the stories so hilarious, they encouraged her to write a book about her experiences.

Which is exactly what she did.



["MatchDotBomb, A Midlife Journey through Internet Dating"](#) is her self-published collection of dating adventures (and the reason why I ended up on the phone with her this morning).

But despite the book's title, the book is not negative at all. Friedman talks about a lot of the things we 20 and 30-somethings are also learning from the dating world. Some of her best nuggets of wisdom:

- "There's a lot of self-discovery through dating dysfunction."
- "If you have a traveling companion that comes with you on your journey, that's the icing on the cake. But the journey is the cake."
- "People need to learn, as I did, that it's all right to be the fifth, or the seventh, or the 9th at the dinner party."
- "Get strength and companionship from your friends while you're looking for Mr. or Ms. Right. But focus on the journey."

Friedman's book is available on her website, and on [Amazon.com](#) and [BarnesandNoble.com](#)

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