

# In Identity We Trust



By **Sabine Fox**

IDENTITY is an important role of a person's self being. It helps to verify who one is. But when it comes to identity in the current digital age that we live in, can one feel absolutely certain that their identities are safe? And can we really believe the person we talk to on the opposite screen is who they are?

There have been cases where men and women have fallen victims of online romance scams on dating sites, thinking that the person they are talking to is genuine. However, in reality, the person is not who they represent, and instead have taken upon an alias and photos of innocent members of the public as who they want to portray as. With these, the unfortunate victims are scammed into sending hundreds, maybe thousands of their life savings.

Some may wonder how people can be so gullible as to send money over to someone they have met online. But when looking deep into it, all is built on trust. Trust in the person and on the main domain of the website.

When online, people don't always necessarily use their birth names. Pseudonyms are used as another form of one's identity, where they want others in the digital world to associate them by their nickname or virtual avatars. This is all portrayed differently depending on the website used and interest groups.

One can prefer to hide their real identity and pose a new persona in the virtual reality, where they'll be completely

different, and perhaps use their utopian lifestyle and look, compared to what they truly are in real life.

However, with the possibility of changing one's name and possessing anonymity, distress can be caused by the abuse of technology. Internet trolling, where one posts inflammatory or off-topic comments to online domains such as social networks and forums to provoke a response to their readers, have recently been in the public eye.

Recent cases where people have unfortunately taken their lives or have been subjected to murder or accidental occurrences, have been the bait of trollers, who defile tribute sites dedicated to the beings whose lives are lost. With the anonymity in place, it helps the trollers to hide behind their screens believing that they will not be found. In reality, they do get found out and the likelihood of a jail-term sentence is a definite outcome.

Identity in the digital age can be dangerous when one looks at it. From possessing complete anonymity to a false profile that uses stolen images of innocent people, it can cause one to believe and trust the person whose doing these actions, unbeknownst to the genuine user that they are being tricked.

But it's not all doom and gloom. With the alternative life and identity one wants to portray in another 'world', a person perhaps would want to fit into the lifestyle that they feel that they cannot pursue in real life.

# My Manifesto

Sabine Fox

1. I WANT to be unique as an **Illustrator**.
2. I WANT to be able to **show my creations through your eyes and hands**.
3. I WANT to **walk into shops and see my creations on the shelves**.
4. I WANT to **get better** at what I do.
5. I WANT to **practice everyday** at what I do.
6. I WANT to be **challenged**.
7. I WANT to show my **full potential**.
8. I WANT to **experience new things**.
9. I WANT to have **no regrets**.
10. I WANT to **no longer dream of my dreams**.