

# I literally walked away from a first date

Just Venting 😞

I (31M) went on a first date with a woman (32F) last night—my first one in a while.

A few months ago, I lost my job, which hit me hard. After that, I deleted all my dating apps to focus on myself and make sure I was in the right headspace before putting myself out there again. Over the past two years, I've had financial struggles that I've been actively working to overcome, and I've made solid progress. Even without W2 employment, I own an LLC and take on contract gigs helping companies with HR functions, plus a few side hustles. All in all, I pull in about \$60-80K USD a year, but still less than I did when I was working full time. I am a conventionally attractive man. I am 6'5, used to be a successful boxer, have my EMT certification, have a college degree and graduate coursework under my belt, I CrossFit, read, go to therapy, and generally take care of myself and try to have an abundance of empathy for my friends and the world around me.

I met this woman on Hinge (she initiated conversation and liked my profile), and we hit it off—similar values, interests, and life goals, or so I thought. We met at a bar, and I had no issue buying her drinks. The conversation was great, and we seemed to really connect. Early on, I mentioned that I hadn't been on a date in a while and that I felt a little self-conscious about losing my job and being self-employed while dating, just because it was a new experience for me, but that I was doing a really good job overcoming it and was in a place to date with a healthy mindset.

The date was going great, we had good conversation and connected well. It was fun. (I thought there was a bit of chemistry, but even if I'm wrong, it was a good time.)

A few hours in, out of nowhere, she told me she's tired of 50/50 relationships and doesn't want that. I was confused and mentioned that life has ups and downs, and sometimes things flip—nothing is always perfectly equal, people experience struggle, and that partnership requires give and take. She said she understood that but still doesn't want to contribute half. She flat-out said she's hot, she wants to travel, be provided for, and live in her “feminine energy,” which requires someone who can provide for her financially most of the time. I could tell by the way she was looking at me that she didn't think I fit the bill. It stung, and I showed it in my body language. Mind you the entire first few hours of the conversation were centered around intimacy, connection, and other emotional aspects that are needed in relationships. We discussed desiring a partner/partnership while messaging on Hinge as well.

She is working on becoming a junior developer—she has a degree but spent her 20s and early 30s working in the service industry. She kept going, saying income is really important to her, and she never wants to contribute more than 40% in a relationship, ideally less. She dug into this to the point where I was feeling hurt and like it was excessive.

At that point, I stopped her and said, “What you're saying is hurtful and mean. I'm working hard to be in a good place financially, but I'm clearly not the ‘provider’ type you're looking for.” She responded

that she knew I wasn't and said her intent wasn't to be mean, just to be honest about what she wanted and would rather say it than hold it in.

I reminded her that I had already shared that my job situation was something I was insecure about, and instead of just deciding she didn't want a second date and moving on, she was choosing to sit there and reject me to my face over finances. I told her that it was mean and inconsiderate to actively reject someone to their face over something that they have expressed an insecurity about, especially considering it was a first date and it's not necessary. I also expressed again that I was working hard to be successful and that I make enough money to be comfortable, but we live in Denver, and being a provider requires a lot. I also noted that even though her intent wasn't to be inconsiderate, that it still was and that the impact was negative. She paused, thought about it, and then apologized, saying she could see how that was hurtful.

We started moving through the conversation back to smoother waters, but I obviously knew this wasn't going anywhere.

Then she switched back to the income conversation by telling me how much she liked our conversation, how she really connected with me, and how I had the emotional intelligence of someone she could see herself dating... But.

In three to five years when I'm in a more financially successful place. Rubbing salt into the wound.

At that, I simply said, "I'm going to go ahead and end this date. I had a good time up until now, I appreciate you coming out tonight and wish you the best, goodbye."

I looked away, I stood up, put on my jacket, walked to the bar, paid the bill, and walked out without looking back.

Because I am good enough now—not in three to five years.