

Interview Conducted December 11th, 2020.

Questions Provided in Writing by Jackson Crilley

Answers Provided in Writing by Abby DaSilva

Can you provide a bit of context behind your situation dating during quarantine? Provide any relevant details.

I met my girlfriend at school in February of 2020 and we made our relationship 'official' on March 6, 2020. March 6 was also the last day we were at school before it shut down due to Covid. Quarantine started around March 16, and March 15 was the last day I saw my girlfriend before a two month period where we were not allowed to see anyone. Due to the short amount of time we knew each other before we became partners, a lot of our relationship during quarantine was based on just getting to know each other.

What was the most difficult part about starting a relationship during a pandemic?

The most difficult part about starting a relationship during a pandemic was the absence of a physical relationship. There are obviously a lot of different factors that contribute to a relationship, physical being one of them. Even though the physical component of a relationship isn't the most important for me, it still had a huge impact on the rate at which our relationship was moving. For at least two months it was hard to even recognize if we had a physical connection towards each other. We were talking and learning more about each other through texting and facetime and I think this even hindered our ability to communicate effectively with each other in person once we were able to see each other. It was acting as a long-distance relationship even though we didn't live very far from each other at all. The lack of physical touch and face-to-face communication made for a very non-conventional first couple of months of dating.

Do you feel the pandemic in any way influenced anything that led to your breakup?

I think the pandemic definitely hindered the rate at which our relationship moved, which ultimately led to a delay in when I realized she was not 'the one' for me. If we were able to see each other in person from the beginning of our relationship, I think I would have realized sooner that there were things about her and her personality that did not align with me and what I needed. In other words, if the pandemic did not occur, I would have probably broken up with her sooner.

If you could give one piece of advice to anyone about dating during a pandemic, what would it be?

If I could give anyone advice about dating during a pandemic, I would say to try to communicate over video-chat such as facetime rather than just texting as the primary way to communicate. A person's personality can be so different over a text message compared to how they are in real life. FaceTime is the closest thing to physically being with a person, and allowed for better judgement towards someone.

Do you think that experiences you've had dating during the pandemic will affect any future relationships you have?

Dating during a pandemic makes me never want to be in a long-distance relationship. It is so hard to talk to someone all day long who you are romantically interested in and not be able to see them. Although the girl I dated was not 'the one' for me I had genuine feelings for her, especially when I was not able to see her. This definitely relates to the saying "people always want what they can't have".