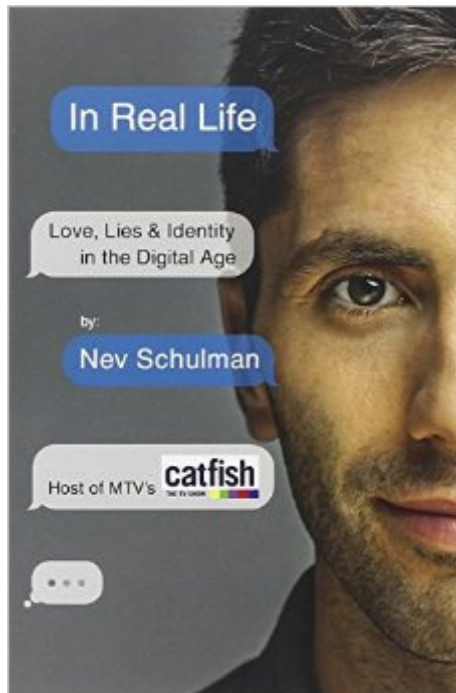


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# In Real Life: Love, Lies & Identity In The Digital Age



## Synopsis

From the host of MTV's #1 show Catfish comes the definitive guide about how to connect with people authentically in today's increasingly digital world. **IN REAL LIFE: Love, Lies & Identity in the Digital Age** As the host of the wildly popular TV series Catfish which investigates online relationships to determine whether they are based on truth or fiction (spoiler: it's almost always fiction). Nev has become the Dr. Drew of online relationships. His clout in this area springs from his own experience with a deceptive online romance, about which he made a critically acclaimed 2010 documentary (also called Catfish). In that film Nev coined the term "catfish" to refer to someone who creates a false online persona to reel someone into a romantic relationship. The meme spread rapidly. Now Nev brings his expertise to the page, sharing insider secrets about:-what motivates catfish-why people fall for catfish-how you can avoid being deceived-rules for dating -- both online and off-how to connect authentically with others over the internet-how to turn an online relationship into a real-life relationship ...and much, much more. Peppared throughout with Nev's personal stories, this book delves deeply into the complexities of online identity. Nev shows us how our digital lives are affecting our real lives, and provides essential advice about how we should all be living and loving in the era of social media.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First of all, kudos to Nev for the releasing of this really personal and interesting book. I have to admit that I didn't really know the story of Nev, at all. I'd seen a couple of Catfish episodes, but I had no

idea there was such a moving story behind it all. If you're familiar with his previous work, and the TV show then you know what this is about. But I'd really like to say, that this is the perfect book for someone like me. If you've ever been catfished, or had anything similar happen to you, you MUST read this. I was instantly hooked, because since the very beginning of the introduction, I could already relate to all of it. And it just gets better and better. It really does feel like a really long, detailed and honest conversation with Nev. I could see myself in every single page, my story and his, so similar in certain ways. And I know this has happened to A LOT of people out there. Well, no wonder the show's on for its 4th season. And that is only a very little amount of people that have gone through it. You can only imagine how many more have gone through it too and are probably too embarrassed to tell anyone. The book itself is written in a very personal way, very honest and just straightforward. I found it really hard to disengage at any point, I just kept going until I finished. After reading it, I can really say my whole point of view regarding all online relationships and our ways of communicating through social media, have completely changed. Besides from narrating his personal catfish experience, Nev really goes all out explaining how these social media online relationships work and all the basics, the do's and the don't's; But mainly, the importance of engaging in an offline relationship rather than an online relationship.

I've been a fan of Nev's work since I saw Catfish (the documentary) so when I heard that he was writing a book, I immediately planned to read it. No questions asked. I didn't care what it was about...if Nev wrote it, then it'll be interesting, right? I didn't really know what to expect but by the title, I figured it would be a sort of thesis about online relationships--romantic and otherwise. As a happily married 30-something who has never done any online dating and uses social media strictly to keep in touch with people I actually know, I don't really have a personal stake in the topic. But I'm still interested in what he has to say on the subject because there's no doubt that social media has shaped the way we interact with the world around us. And Nev has proven himself qualified to comment on this societal change, given his personal history and current job as host of Catfish: The TV Show. In the book, Nev mentions that we must all make responsible decisions online. He discusses a few examples of negative, mean things that people regularly do online that should be avoided, including "posting a nasty book review." (I see what you did there, Mr. Schulman...) So I hope this review doesn't come across to anyone as unnecessarily critical. But...The first thing I noticed is that he writes as he speaks. From page one, I felt like he's having a conversation with his readers...kicking back, sharing a pizza and some beers. I like that! But I quickly realized that he doesn't seem to know who he's talking to. The book is a hybrid jumble of three topics that aren't

pieced together in an especially cohesive way and may even be geared toward three different audiences.

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