

TRAVELLING TO MEET A POTENTIAL MATE

Going abroad to meet a suitor must be done with caution, especially if the relationship began in the shadowy realm of cyberspace. Despite some successes, international cyberdating is fraught with danger and disappointment. Certain would-be immigrants consider marriage to a Canadian citizen to be their ticket to a Canadian visa. It has nothing to do with romance.

Did you know that in many countries a husband can lawfully impose travel restrictions on his wife and children, preventing their return to Canada?

Never quit your job, give up your home or sell all of your belongings in anticipation of a union that may never happen.

When Odette met Hassan through an online ad, it was love at first sight. Her family was leery of the cyber-romance, but Odette felt alive for the first time in years. She sold her house, quit her job and cashed in her pension to pay for a move to Morocco. No sooner had she arrived in Marrakech than everything went wrong. Hassan was 20 years older than he had been in his online photo. Wedding arrangements began at once. Soon, Odette was trapped in an abusive marriage and had spent all her finances on an apartment for Hassan, who held her passport and refused to let her leave Marrakech.

If you travel to meet a potential husband, it is vitally important to learn beforehand about his country's customs and laws regarding relationships and marriage. How his culture views women's rights, premarital sex, child custody and other issues may be very