



Thank You Notes

A Collection of Poetry



Plenty of Fish



Introduction

Sometimes it can feel like dating these days is all about the end game. We want that first date to turn into a second, then a third until the rest is history. But, what about everything (or everyone) in between?

Dating isn't a solo mission. Far from it, actually. Those moments spent dishing with friends or sharing that "SOS" look with a stranger might not be the most glamorous, but they're authentic. They're part of the journey. Thank You Notes celebrates those moments and gives a much-needed nod to the unsung heroes of the dating game.

These poems are based on real and raw stories that are totally unique, relatable and give credit to all the supporting stars who helped us along the way. Yep, even our exes.



Meet Charly

Charly Cox is an award-winning British poet and writer, who is skilled at using the medium of poetry to portray different topics and themes such as dating & relationships, body image, and coming-of-age.

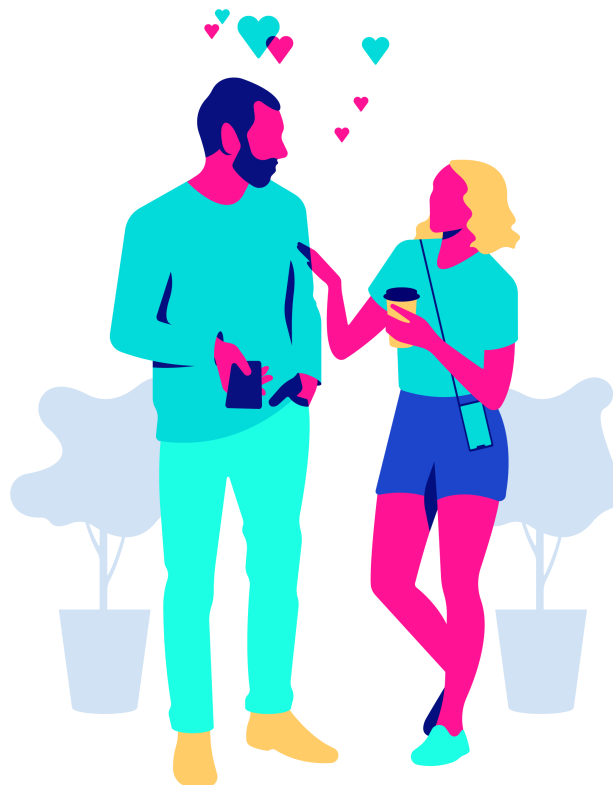
Finding the art of writing poetry playful and therapeutic, Charly uses poetry to convey her own experiences of life and spread joy. Throughout this collection of poems, Charly tells the stories of eight different dating journeys, spotlighting the often-overlooked supporting stars of the dating game.

Stand Up Guy

Inspired by Denise, Tidworth

After being stood up for the second time and chatting to a friendly barmaid, Denise was introduced to the man of her dreams and her now husband, George.

How many chances
Make you look a fool?
I've not got this dressed up
To spend a night with the barstool
Things could've been different
The start of my shame
Thanks to the barmaid
I learned your name
Gone were the feelings
I'd become accustomed
It turns out the best thing the kitchen was serving
Was my second husband



Fateful Friends

Inspired by Emma, **London**

Emma's friend bailed on dinner, pushing her and their mutual friend to have their very first date together.

Your excuses didn't matter
We weren't watching for the door
We didn't wait to start without you
We'd not missed your presence anymore
So don't worry, please no sorrys
It's the best thing you could have done
Because when you bailed on dinner
You set me up with the one



Far from a Car Crash

Inspired by Debbie, Ormskirk

**Left stranded by her then boyfriend, Debbie
found her Prince Charming who whisked her away on
a romantic date and the rest is history.**

Thank you to the no-show
To whatever was more important
Than picking me up
Because you gifted me luck
With the chance to have my faith restored and
Allowed someone better to arrive...

Sure the taxi back crashed
...And your friends were all lashed
...And the evening was now definitely morning
But I've got nothing but gratitude for being stood up
Because I deserved to meet my husband
in a way that wasn't conforming
You can take your dinner and drinks... how boring!

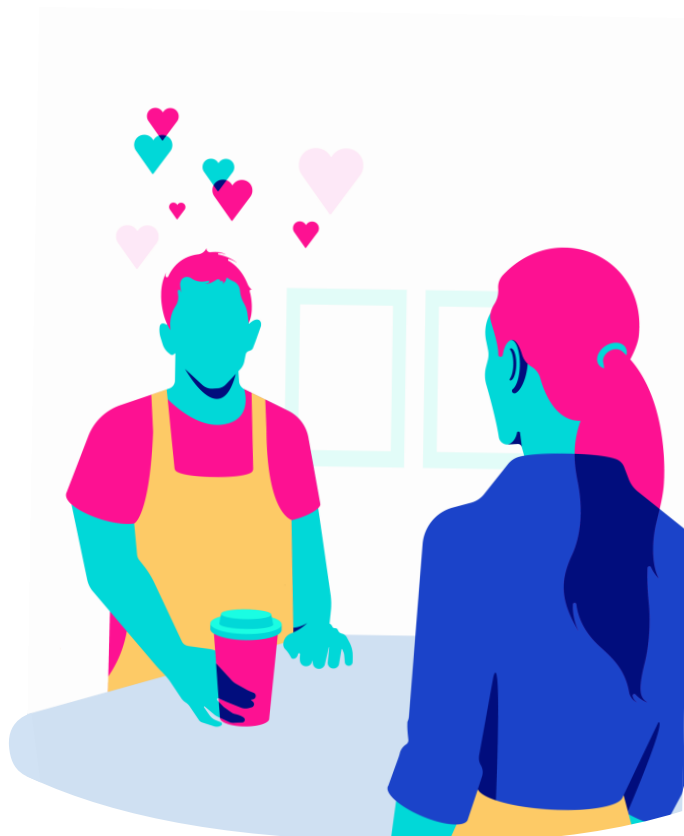


Confidence to Go

Inspired by Lilly, **London**

A pre-date visit to a coffee shop gave Lilly the confidence boost she needed – and a free latte!

Extra hot, a double shot
Of reassurance, please!
Delivered with a smile
A nod of expertise
You must have seen my nerves
My brain a little choppy
But you washed it down
With 'you look stunning!'
A skip in my step and a free coffee



My Number One

Inspired by Kate, **Edinburgh**

Thanks to her confident friend who approached her love interest, Kate and her now boyfriend have been together for over a year.

When I'm due a shot of confidence
You're the one who'll raise the bar
Only you could hear 'oh he's quite hot'
Then run with it so far
It was just a passing joke
Not a race for you to hurtle
Did I even say it out loud?
I thought it might have been internal

A day out of fun, just you and me, I would've been impressed
But you just had to ask him for his number
Whilst you're clearly biased at best
Thank you for the courage...and thank god he said yes



Whatever Works

Inspired by Laura, **London**

Thanks to her confidence boosting colleagues, Laura asked her workmate out for a drink and they're still going on dates to this day.

It's as simple as being noticed
By those who see you everyday
The 'head in spreadsheets, work shirt and coffee stains'
They could email me back faster
Stop eating egg salad at lunch
They're definitely not perfect - but without them
Would I have taken the plunge?

It's as simple as being noticed
By those who see you everyday
An interest in my evening
An 'Oh, you look lovely by the way'
Thank you to the colleagues
Who nudged 'Go Get 'Em!' in the hall
The date was perfect, we're now in love
But without you I'd never have gone at all...



When You Know, You Know

Inspired by Sophie & Helen, **Ashby**

**Sophie's supportive bestie gave her the self-belief
she needed to propose to her now fiancé.**

I'm crazy, I'm sure
For falling so fast
Propose at six months?
I don't stand a chance!
Without the wisdom of friendship
The way you know me so well
I'd not have pursued my true happiness
I'd simply be the one who fell
And not the architect of my dreams
You showed me not all the best love is professed down on one knee
Who else could I trust
With you I don't have to pretend
This journey to love
Would've been nothing without my best friend.





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