

THE EXPERIENCE OF A PART-TIME SUGAR BABY

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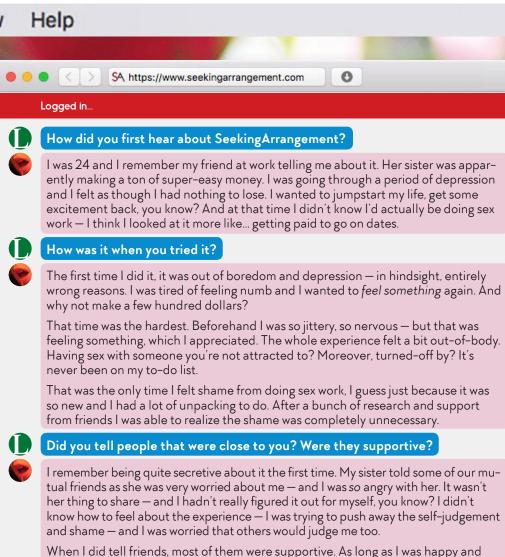
Sex work is not what you expect.

"Iris Janis" has used a website called SeekingArrangement (SA) on and off for two years. It is a transactional dating site that describes itself as delivering "a new way for relationships to form and grow. Sugar Babies and Sugar Daddies or Mommas both get what they want, when they want it."

Iris was kind enough to share insight on her experiences with the Leveller.







be in a "mentor" role, guiding women to realize their "full potential." Ugh. I think it's

Does the process feel completely different from a "normal" online dating

Yes, entirely. It's all performative. On SA I was someone else, I was whoever the

john wanted me to be in that moment. I'd gauge what the man was like and what

Tinder/PlentyofFish, I'm always myself. I won't put on a facade or act. Sex work is a

transaction, right? So I was providing the other party with what he was looking for.

ments...?" and go from there. I'd set the price and if they weren't ok with it, that'd be

seemed unstable or dangerous. I'd follow my gut - I've always been far too trusting, I

I would turn down clients if they wouldn't pay the amount I requested, or if they

he was in to, and I would adjust my persona accordingly. When using OkCupid/

Can you describe the negotiation process with clients? Do you turn some

The conversation would usually start with "so have you had any past arrange-

know. And I recognize I am so privileged — I could step away if I wanted to.

an ego thing. I felt that vibe on most of the dates I went on.

clients down, or say no to certain things they request?

experience?

fine, we'd both move along.



That's exactly what it was — a mutually beneficial relationship where both parties

sexual. Most of the men on SA were looking for a barely-legal hypersexual dreamgirl

– and I'm an androgynous lanky queer woman with short hair and glasses. I wanted

to make sure we were both getting what we were looking for — which is why during

It's funny though — in my experience both sides of the arrangement believed they were

holding the more valuable commodity. The guy usually knew I was a broke student, and

arrangements, for lack of better words, I would become someone else.

I knew he was horny as hell! Negotiating the price of sex — what a funny dance.



posting anything to the site gives them "irrevocable,

perpetual" right to use this information (Section

8c). They may release this information if they be-

lieve the disclosure is "reasonable" (13c).