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Internet Dating for Centenarians

By Sarah Smith

The heady, rose scented cloud of perfume,
That accompanies her everywhere,
Announces her check in.
My oldest patient, she aggressively
Plods down the hall, her heels
Clicking in sync with the
Clack of her dentures and
Clank of her walker.
Confident, with that old lady swagger,
You don't reach a hundred without it.
Our eyes meet, she winks first,
Shouts to me, "Good Morning Doctor!
Have you found me a boyfriend yet?"
Lips carefully lined with a cotton candy pink shade that
Matches her clip-on earrings and fresh manicure.
I smile back, contemplating whether
We should focus on this instead of
Another stale discussion of her lipids -
And could explaining online dating qualify as patient education?
Might as well, I figure,
No one needs more Lipitor
More than love.

Sarah Smith is a board-certified family physician, an author, and a mother of two. Her first book, *The Doctor Will Be Late*, was published earlier this year. Smith, who lives in Tampa, Florida, has also been published in *Kevin MD*, *Brief Wilderness* and *Sheila-Na-Gig* online. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Ohio University. Her Field Notes essay “Susannah and Gizmo” also appears in the Fall 2021 *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*.

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