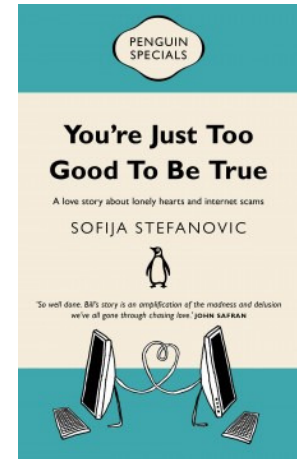


You're Just Too Good to Be True: Penguin Special

AUTHOR: SOFIJA STEFANOVIC

Q & A With Sofija Stefanovic

Penguin Q & A with Sofia Stefanovic, author of You're Just Too Good to Be True: Penguin Special



How did you come to write this book?

My 80-year-old friend Bill was being scammed over the internet, so it was personal. I decided to go deeper into the world of romance scams by learning from victims, the fraud squad, and eventually going online to try and talk to scammers myself.

Was it a scary experience researching for this book?

A little bit! I was misleading criminals on the internet. And, according to my sources, some of these people belong to powerful and aggressive syndicates. So I was always expecting to get a pile of poo or a dead rat in the mail, but luckily this hasn't happened (yet). I was also careful to protect my privacy, with guidance from the fraud squad.

Are there any juicy bits that did not make it in?

Yes! So many embarrassing and saucy chats with my internet suitors. I am blushing thinking about it now.

What is the number one lesson you learnt during your investigation?

Being scammed is not just for gullible people or fools, it could happen to you or someone you love. I also learned that chatting to attractive people on internet dating sites can be quite exhilarating.

Have you done anything else like this when investigating for your work?

Sort of. Immersing myself is how I like to investigate. In the past, I've joined a cult, participated in exorcisms, taken part in an ex-Yugoslavian beauty pageant, all for the purpose of investigating stories.