# Widower scammed out of £85,000 left homeless after romance fraud in Kenya



## Scammed by Love: The Heartbreaking Story of Roderick Lodge

In a poignant tale that underscores the darker side of online romance, 70-year-old Roderick Lodge recounted how he was conned out of £85,000 by a woman he believed he would spend the rest of his life with. Speaking on the popular daytime show *This Morning*, Lodge shared the harrowing details of his experience, which saw him transition from living a relatively comfortable life to facing homelessness.

Lodge's ordeal began after he tragically lost his wife of 25 years. Since 1991, he had been involved in humanitarian work with the United Nations, which often took him to Kenya. During one of these stays, he met a woman named Anita through a friend and soon found himself enveloped in a whirlwind online romance. The couple’s connection grew swiftly, with Lodge believing that he had finally found someone to share his life with once again. “Within three or four months it was going further; I started thinking of marriage,” he shared.

As their relationship developed, Anita requested financial assistance, claiming that she needed funds to maintain a beauty business, which she alleged employed 30 people, and to complete the construction of a house. Each time Lodge sent her money, he hoped it would bring them closer together, convinced of her sincerity. “It ended up in total about £85,000,” he confessed, reflecting on the multiple transactions made over time.

Despite warnings from friends, who voiced their concerns about the legitimacy of the relationship, Roderick remained steadfast in his belief that Anita was genuine. “Because the contact came through the first lady I thought it couldn't be the case,” he explained. Tragically, it was only when Anita claimed her father was in desperate need of medical treatment that the façade began to crumble. Lodge's friends took the initiative to investigate, ultimately discovering that no such person existed.

Once the truth became apparent, it was too late for Lodge. Having already depleted his life savings, he found himself stranded in Kenya with no means to return home. Upon his arrival back in the UK, he faced further trials, spending two weeks on the streets because he couldn’t navigate the complex system for homeless assistance. Lodge later spent two months in a hostel while desperately trying to find his footing. “I basically live from month to month,” he noted, relying on a few pensions to keep him afloat.

The widespread issue of romance scams has prompted authorities to recommend greater vigilance among potential victims. Louise Baxter, Head of Trading Standards Scam Team, emphasised the need for compassion towards those affected. “He was controlled and manipulated. We have to be kinder to victims,” she stated during the television segment, highlighting the emotional abuse that often accompanies such scams.

Lodge's story serves as a crucial reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by those seeking companionship online. He now urges others to exercise caution, imploring individuals to scrutinise digital relationships and not dismiss the warnings that often come too late. “I've lost my future. I can't even afford an air fare to Kenya," he lamented, expressing his longing for what could have been.

As technology continues to transform how we connect with others, it is essential that we remain aware of the risks associated with online interactions. Roderick Lodge's experience illuminates the urgent necessity for education and awareness around romance scams, ensuring that others may avoid falling prey to similarly devastating circumstances.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14686847/homeless-woman-conned-85k-Morning.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14686847/homeless-woman-conned-85k-Morning.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c78lyjx1y33o), [[4]](https://www.gbnews.com/news/widower-homeless-romance-scam-kenya)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14686847/homeless-woman-conned-85k-Morning.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/world/2024-09-05-my-fake-kenyan-bride-to-be-scammed-me-out-of-85k)
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1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14686847/homeless-woman-conned-85k-Morning.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c78lyjx1y33o> - Rodrick Lodge, a 69-year-old widower from Leiston, Suffolk, was introduced to a woman named Anita by a friend he met in Kenya. They developed an online relationship, and Lodge agreed to move to Nairobi to marry her. However, upon arrival, he discovered that Anita did not exist, and he had been scammed out of £85,000. Lodge now lives in a homeless shelter in Woking, expressing deep regret and feeling embarrassed about the situation. He advises others to be cautious of such scams. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c78lyjx1y33o?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/world/2024-09-05-my-fake-kenyan-bride-to-be-scammed-me-out-of-85k> - Rodrick Lodge, 69, was introduced to a woman named Anita by a friend he met in Kenya. They built an online relationship, and Lodge agreed to move to Nairobi to marry her. However, upon arrival, he found that Anita did not exist, and he had been scammed out of £85,000. Lodge now lives in a homeless shelter in Woking, expressing deep regret and feeling embarrassed about the situation. He advises others to be cautious of such scams. ([the-star.co.ke](https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/world/2024-09-05-my-fake-kenyan-bride-to-be-scammed-me-out-of-85k?utm_source=openai))
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