

*THE
COMPATIBILITY
CENSUS™*

By

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INTRODUCTION

The Ouvroir of Romantic Gestures and the Paralogics of Love presents The Compatibility Census.

It is the near future. The search for love and romance with the use of dating apps has grown to such an extent that real life romantic communication between people is sparse. Eye contact makes people nervous and uncomfortable. Life has become centered around digital devices and people have forgotten how to form and hold relationships in real life.

Our ouvroir recognised these issues in society as an existential crisis and decided to address them. We have created The Compatibility Census, which is a system that combats the poorly restructured society that digital algorithmic dating apps have caused. With an analogue approach, The Compatibility Census questions and critiques the choice paralysis currently visible in our society, and aims to provide an alternative method.

THE COMPATIBILITY CENSUS

Clears confusion
Correlates love and romance with the eye and vision
Creates unique individual results
Celebrates chance
Counts on having time
Confounds understanding

The Ouvroir of Romantic Gestures and the Paralogics of Love invites you along to experience the workings of The Compatibility Census in the documentation of one of our trained Pataphysicans conducting The Compatibility Census with an individual.

Appointment card

Individual: Amelia Haper
 IndiCode: —
 Date of Birth: 24/02/2071
 E Address: flat 25, Chatham place, E9 6F3

Pata District: GoldCross
 Pataphysician: Barry Yippen
 Location of appointment: Flat 25, Chatham place, E9 6F3
 Time of appointment: 10.82a/pm

T Y

10.82a/pm, Flat 25, Chatham Place, E9 6F3

BARRY

3 Hello Amelia! I'm your Pataphysician today. Thank you for making an appointment with your Pata-District GoldCross, and for welcoming me into your home. As you can see, I have brought along this large object which is the Compatibility Census Chest. 3

(BARRY puts the Compatibility Census Chest on the table between himself and AMELIA and opens it. He takes out the Compatibility Census Results Logbook and the Compatibility Census Color Pencil. He places these on the table and sits down across from AMELIA.)

Inside are all the devices that we need for today's appointment. I can reassure you that I have been trained in your Pata-District to successfully set up the Compatibility Census Devices and confidentially document your results.

From our records, I can see that this is your first appointment. It will be quite an informal procedure, so please don't feel nervous. There is no wrong way to take part in the Compatibility Census, and hopefully you will have a positive experience.

To start, could you please tell me why you decided to make an appointment? It is useful to know your point of view on the

Census as it will inform today's appointment and allow us to improve the quality of the Census.

AMELIA

Well, I decided to contact the GoldCross office because I am not sure how I can improve my romantic relationship status on my own.

(AMELIA looks at the floor.)

In the past, I was a frequent user of dating apps—Onsra, Kilig, Meraki—but none of those were able to match me with a person I truly could connect to. Simultaneously, I noticed that I had become so reliant on the digital algorithms to offer me people for selection, that I am now too nervous to approach anyone new in real life. I've been single for two years and have not met anyone new in the past eight months.

(AMELIA shuffles uncomfortably in her chair.)

So I simply don't know how I can move forward. Luckily, I'd heard about The Compatibility Census and decided... well, why not?

4

4

BARRY

I am sorry to hear that, but hopefully it will comfort you to know that many people are in the same situation. You are not alone, just single. It is very common to have these problems with dating. We believe we can help.

(BARRY opens the Compatibility Census Results Logbook to the first page and picks up the Compatibility Census Color Pencil and poses it over the page.)



I just need to check a few of your personal details with you before we start. Could you give me your full name please?

AMELIA

Of course, it is Amelia Haper.

(Under "INDIVIDUAL", BARRY writes "Amelia Haper" down next to "Name:".)

BARRY

Wonderful, thank you very much.

And as I will need to check that you are over 18 years old, could you give me your date of birth?

AMELIA

24 of the second month, year 2071.

(Under "INDIVIDUAL", BARRY writes "24/02/2071" down next to "Date of birth:".)

BARRY

And your E-Address, please?

AMELIA

Flat 25, Chatham Place, E9 6FJ

(Under "INDIVIDUAL", BARRY writes "Flat 25, Chatham Place, E9 6FJ" down next to "E-Address:".)

BARRY

That's great.

I also need your signature before we can start to indicate that you approve your results being submitted to the Compatibility Census Database. I can assure you that the results are fully confidential and cannot be accessed by anyone outside of the Ouvroir of Romantic Gestures and Paralogics of Love Compatibility Census Division.

AMELIA

(AMELIA scribbles her signature.)

BARRY

Thank you Amelia, we have now concluded the preparatory part and can begin with the devices.

(BARRY gestures towards the inside of the Compatibility Census Chest to indicate the devices.)

The Compatibility Census Chest, here in front of us, contains five different devices. Each device has a different function, but they all correlate love and romance with the eye and vision.

The outcome of each device will create a unique individual result, and I will be recording those results along the way. Please remember that this is not a performance test. There isn't any sense of passing or of failing. This is not a series of regular tests where you will be marked from zero to one hundred, and therefore there is no standard to meet.

(BARRY turns the Compatibility Census Results Logbook to face Amelia and flips through the pages slowly.)

6 The result generated by each device is simply your unique code which we call the Individual Code or IndiCode in short form. While the devices have been created according to ideas of love and romance, you are not being measured against a metric of being a better or worse lover. 6

Do you feel comfortable with that? Because only then can we continue.

AMELIA

Yes, we can start.

BARRY

Wonderful.

The devices are administered sequentially based off the phases of love and romance. Therefore, we will start with I've Got Butterflies 나는 굉장히 떨려요.



I've Got Butterflies resembles the feeling of a starting romance. It measures the unknowingness that comes with meeting a new person. To not know who this person is or what to expect. To feel the excitement physically in your body, as butterflies in your stomach.

It encourages one to guess and take a chance. To hopefully get a small taste of what is to come.

(BARRY unties the orange ribbons that keep the Obscurer Chart in the lid of the Compatibility Census Chest. He removes the Obscurer Chart, unfolds it so that the folded semi-circle becomes a circular board. He places the Obscurer Chart with the Chart facing down on the table so that the black back is facing up. He then takes out the glass container of rice paper butterflies, the device named I've Got Butterflies.)

This is I've Got Butterflies, it is a jar filled with Monarch Butterflies.

Could you tell me how many butterflies you think there are in this jar? Take a guess.

(AMELIA picks up the glass container and inspects it.)

AMELIA

Possibly... 112.

(BARRY flips to page 5 of the Compatibility Census Results

Logbook. He writes "112" next to "Number guessed:". He removes the lid from the glass container.)

BARRY

The butterflies are edible. Would you like to have any?

AMELIA

Yes, I would like one.

(AMELIA chooses one and looks slightly confused while eating. BARRY circles "YES" next to "Hungry:" and writes "1" next to "Number taken:".)

BARRY

Okay, that was the end of device one. Please give me a moment, while I write down your first results.

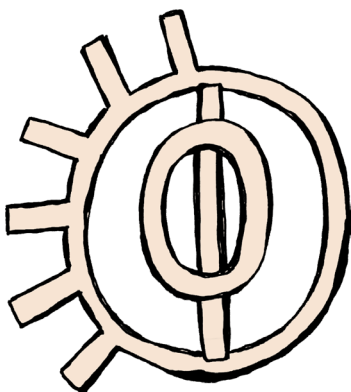
(BARRY writes down the following IndiCode.)

112.Y.1

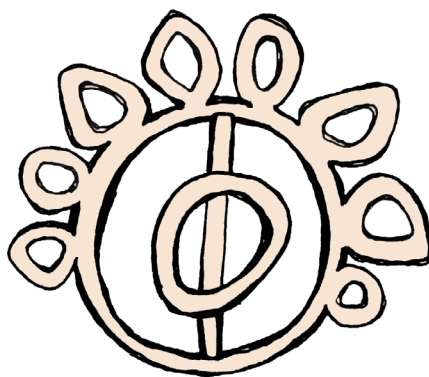
BARRY

Great, all done. We can now move on to our second device, which is called S/He Loves Me, Not.

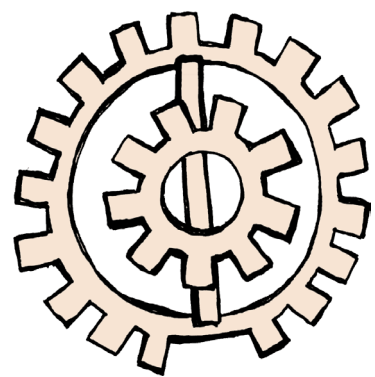
(BARRY puts I've Got Butterflies to one side and takes out Marquerite, Margarete, and Margaretha, plus their corresponding ceramic rings from the Compatibility Census Chest. He places the rings on the back of the Obscurer Chart before placing the eyes on the rings facing Amelia. He flips to page 7 of the Logbook.)



MARGUERITE



MARGARETE



MARGARETHA

At the very beginning of dating there can be many insecurities within a relationship. The ultimate 3 words, "I Love You" 사랑해, can feel loaded or long awaited.

Our census recognises that and instead uses the phrase to gain information in a more lighthearted way. Following the example of the game Effeuiller la Marguerite, we will use this device to record fate and attraction as both those elements are crucial for an individual to show and return affection.

Please select one of these—Marguerite, Margarete or Margaretha.

(AMELIA picks up one of the eyes.)

AMELIA

Margarete

(BARRY circles MARGARETE under "Eye chosen:".)

BARRY

Now, you will be counting the eyelashes on your chosen eye. In order to determine what phrase you should use to begin counting, please wink.

(AMELIA winks with her left eye. BARRY circles "LEFT" under "Wink:". He consults page 6 for guidance.)

BARRY

You winked with your left eye, meaning that you will begin counting eyelashes with the phrase "Loves me". You may pick whatever pronoun you prefer to place in front of "Loves me". This does not indicate eliminating anyone from future matching possibilities.

Please now count the eyelashes by saying "loves me, loves me not" until you are done counting.

(AMELIA, holding MARGARETE with her left hand, counts the eyelashes with her right index finger.)

AMELIA

She loves me, she loves me not, she loves me, she loves me

not, she loves me, she loves me not, she loves me, she loves me not.

*(AMELIA places MARGARETE back on the empty ceramic ring.
BARRY circles "LOVES ME NOT" under "Outcome:".)*

BARRY

Great, do not worry, it does not matter if the outcome turns out negative or positive. Whether an individual winds up saying "loves me or "loves me not" at the end, the outcome of this device is purely a result. It will get translated into an Individual Code and will not have any negative or positive impact on finding a match.

That concludes the second device. I will just write down your Individual Code and then we can move on to number three.

(BARRY writes down the following IndiCode.)

Margarete.L.S.Neg

BARRY

10

10

The third device we will use today is called Let Me Count The Ways 내가 방법을 계산하자. The Compatibility Census considers love to be a labour of attentiveness over time. Let Me Count The Ways is a device that focuses on the time and effort that is put into love.



As you can see, this device is a jar filled with ceramic objects, we call these objects Way Counters. I will pour them

out here on the back of the Obscurer Chart, so that you can have a closer look.

(BARRY puts S/He Loves Me, Not to one side and takes out the glass container of Way Counters, the device called Let Me Count the Ways. He then removes the lid and pours out ceramic Way Counters carefully into one large pile in front of AMELIA. He also takes out the Compatibility Census Scale and the Compatibility Census Timer from the Compatibility Census Chest.)

Way Counters come in multiple shapes, colours and designs. They are currently all mixed together. Please take from this large pile one separate smaller pile, sorting the pieces and making a selection according to your own self-defined logic.

When you start sorting I will start a timer but please don't feel pressured by this, you may use as much time as you like.

AMELIA

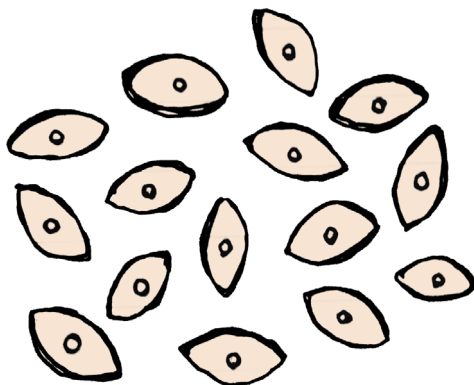
Okay, thank you.

11

(AMELIA starts sorting through the large pile and selects all the lens shaped cream Way Counters with one depressed dot on the surface and places them to one side. BARRY starts the timer, flips to page 9 of the Logbook and observes AMELIA. Some time passes.)

11

I'm done sorting. I think I have gone through each individual Way Counter and do not want to make any more alterations to my selection. This is my sorted pile.



BARRY

You're doing great.

(BARRY stops the timer and moves the sorted pile closer to himself on the back of the Obscurer Chart.)

I will now note down how many of each individual design you have chosen, the time you used to sort, and the pile's total weight using our Compatibility Census Scale.

(BARRY writes "15" next to the symbol for lens shaped cream Way Counters with one depressed dot on the surface under "Number of objects sorted:". Next to "Time:" he writes "18" next to "min" and "36" next to "sec". He then places the empty glass container on the scale, sets the scale to 0, places the sorted Way Counters into the glass container and writes, next to "Weight:", "254" next to "grams".)

Okay, it comes to a total of 254 grams

This way we get a documentation of your preference of object which indicates what you as an individual are attracted to. We will combine this outcome with the total amount of time it took you to do the sorting, 18 minutes and 36 seconds, which will show the level of discernment, dedication, and attention you had for this exercise.

12

12

As we are now half way through the Census, do you have any questions?

AMELIA

Well, I was actually just wondering whether this device is using the same methods as dating apps. As you are letting me sort and select objects, how is that different from swiping left or right?

BARRY

Let Me Count The Ways is actually designed to introduce an incalculable impact on the probability of matching, which is a method opposite to what dating apps employ. By giving you the opportunity to use your own self-defined logic in the sorting we skew the probability measure in an unknown way. You do have better odds of matching with someone than if individuals were instructed to sort the objects at random, but, as it is, there are still a simply incalculable number of ways people might sort a pile from the larger pile.*

The Ouvroir of Romantic Gestures and Paralogics of Love designed the Census in such a way that outcomes can always surprise us. Love is unpredictable, but the current systems in place for finding love ensure individuals of ease, predictability, immediacy, and a plentitude of options. Those things are simply not true, and our reliance as a society on believing that promise has lead us to where we are. Which is... well, you know what situation we're in best, as you were compelled to make an appointment with us. We, as Pataphysicians, aim to respect each individual as a unique individual and therefore prioritise individual control and clarity within the process.

Does that make sense? Do you have any other questions?

AMELIA

Yes, thank you, that really helps. No, we can move on.

BARRY

Okay, let me just write down your Individual Code for this device and then we can continue.

(BARRY writes down the following IndiCode.)

CR15L1.18M36S.254G

BARRY

Our next device is called Like The Back Of My Hand 내 손등과 같이. It is a device to test memory and comes in the shape of a deck of cards. We consider memory a crucial part of relationships, functioning in both good and bad ways.

Good memories of significant events usually help a relationship go well, but memory can also be used as a vindictive way of bringing up the past.

(BARRY places all the Way Counters back into the glass container and puts the device Let Me Count The Ways to one side. He takes out Like The Back of My Hand, the deck cards. He removes the cards from the pack.)

Please select three of these cards and put them face down in front of you.



(BARRY shuffles the 25 cards and then fans out the cards face down on the back of the Obscurer Chart.)

AMELIA

Okay.

(AMELIA considers the cards and selects three, moving them in front of her still face down.)

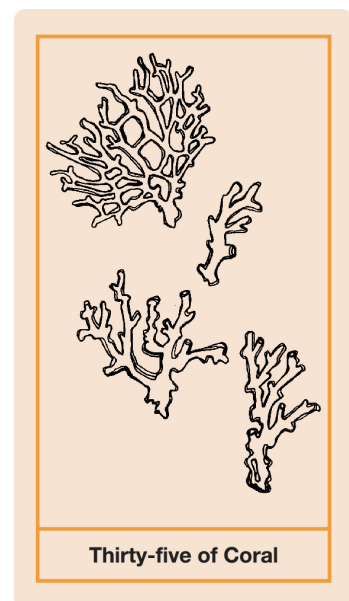
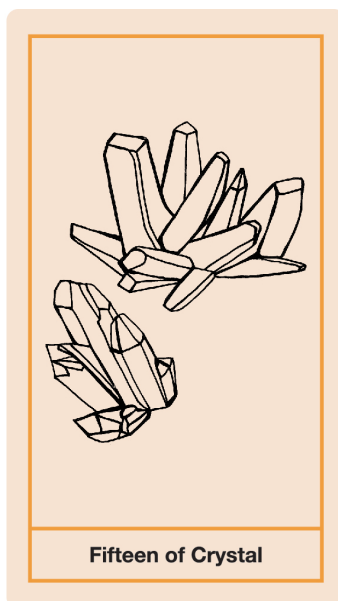
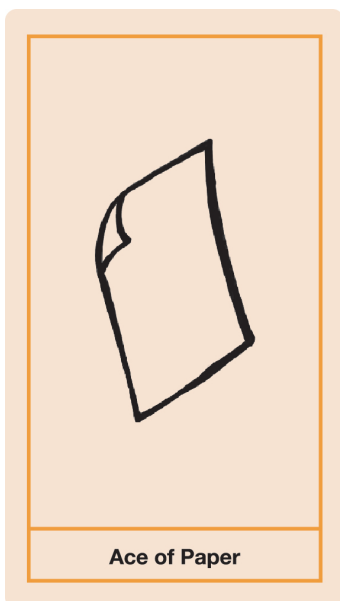
BARRY

14

14

Please flip your three selected cards over. You will have 3 minutes to memorise these cards, but first I will tell you a brief fortune based off of the cards you have drawn.

(AMELIA flips over her three cards and reveals the Ace of Paper, Fifteen of Crystal, and Thirty-five of Coral.)



The elements on the Like the Back of My Hand Deck are taken from the tradition of associating wedding anniversaries with specific materials for gifting. The three cards you have selected are Ace of Paper, Fifteen of Crystal and Thirty-five of Coral.

Paper is a fragile material, similar to the start of life-long partnerships. However, as we know from historical artifacts, paper can also last for centuries, even preserving information on its surface for future generations to investigate. With sufficient care, love too can be so long-lasting as to leave a legacy beyond your lifetime.

Fifteen years is not a short amount of time, but it is also not such a long period of time as to be remarkable. Crystal is appropriate as it is delicate, capable of shattering, but still sturdy, capable of regular usage. Its clarity indicates the clarity necessary for a relationship to last.

Coral is an awe-inspiring naturally occurring structure that we still do not fully understand. We know that it is crucial to the well-being of oceans and marine life, and, similarly, some magic beyond logic is needed in love.

15

I will now start the timer for 3 minutes, which you may use to memorise these cards.

15

(BARRY starts the timer as AMELIA starts to study the cards carefully until the timer goes off.)

Okay, as the three minutes have past, I will now place the cards back in the deck.

(BARRY takes the three cards from in front of AMELIA and places the deck of cards back into the box. He passes the Logbook open to page 11 and the Color Pencil to AMELIA.)

Now, could you please draw the three cards you just memorised into pages 11, 12, and 13 of the Logbook. As you can see there are 3 designated areas for it. You may draw the cards in whatever sequence you prefer and take as long as you like to draw each one, but you must attempt to draw each card using one continuous line. I will now start the timer. Also, please pass the Logbook back to me between each drawing.

(AMELIA begins drawing the Ace of Paper. BARRY starts the timer. AMELIA finishes the drawing and passes the Logbook

to BARRY. BARRY circles the starting point of her drawing and the ending point of her drawing. He circles the card's name in the list on the left hand side of the page, writes down the coordinates of both points next to "Pencil:" and the time the drawing took next to "Time:". He then flips to pages 12 and 13 and passes the Logbook back to AMELIA. They repeat the process of drawing and logging results for the next two cards.)

BARRY

That's all of the drawings for Like The Back Of My Hand.

(BARRY writes down the following IndiCode.)

**Paper.C3.J5.5M26S.Crystal.L.D1.4E.3M5S.
Coral.B1.F1.2M37S**

I can tell you a bit more about the probability of Like The Back Of My Hand, if you would like that?

16

AMELIA

Yes, please.

16

BARRY

Okay, well, as there are 25 cards in the Like The Back Of My Hand Deck, the chance of somebody else drawing the same three cards as you did is 1 in 2300.

On top of that, you drew them in the sequence of your choice, which adds six variations to the probability.

As your cards were Paper, Crystal and Coral, the variations would be Paper - Crystal - Coral, Paper - Coral - Crystal, Crystal - Paper - Coral, Crystal - Coral - Paper, Coral - Paper - Crystal, and Coral - Crystal - Paper.

Then, following the drawing area in the Compatibility Census Results Logbook there are 3600 combinations of start and finish per drawing.

Even excluding the time taken aspect, the probability of

somebody else having the same code as you, using this device is 1 in 643,852,800,000,000.*

AMELIA

Wow.

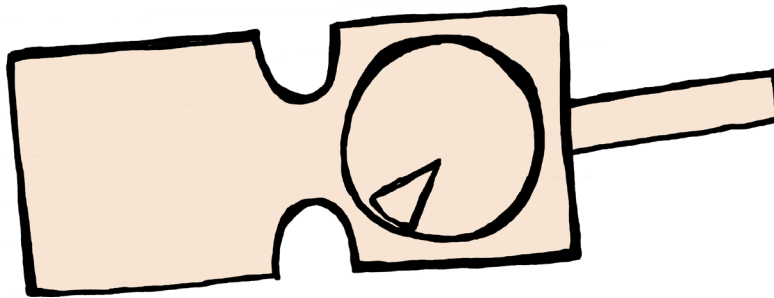
BARRY

Yes, these numbers are large but with still existing, albeit very small, chances of matching. It just goes to show that you are truly a unique individual and to match you correctly we have to be very thorough in the work that we do.

We are now moving on to the last device of the Census.

(BARRY takes out the Eye Obscurer. He places this on the back of the Obscurer Chart between himself and AMELIA. He flips to page 15 in the Logbook.)

Our last device is Love Is Blind 사랑은 장님이다. It was created to resemble the dedication and skill needed to see past the faults of ones partner. An element of love that may occur in any relationship but that needs years to grow to be of strength.



Please hold the Eye Obscurer to your face, resting on your nose, with the orange threads facing outwards.

(AMELIA holds the Eye Obscurer up to her face, playing with it slightly and adjusting it.)

AMELIA

Like this, so I can only see through my left eye?

BARRY

Yes, that is perfect.

(BARRY circles "LEFT" next to "Eye:".)

Now, please turn the dial until you are happy with its setting, we call this finding your Eye Obscurer Segment.

(AMELIA moves the dial slowly.)

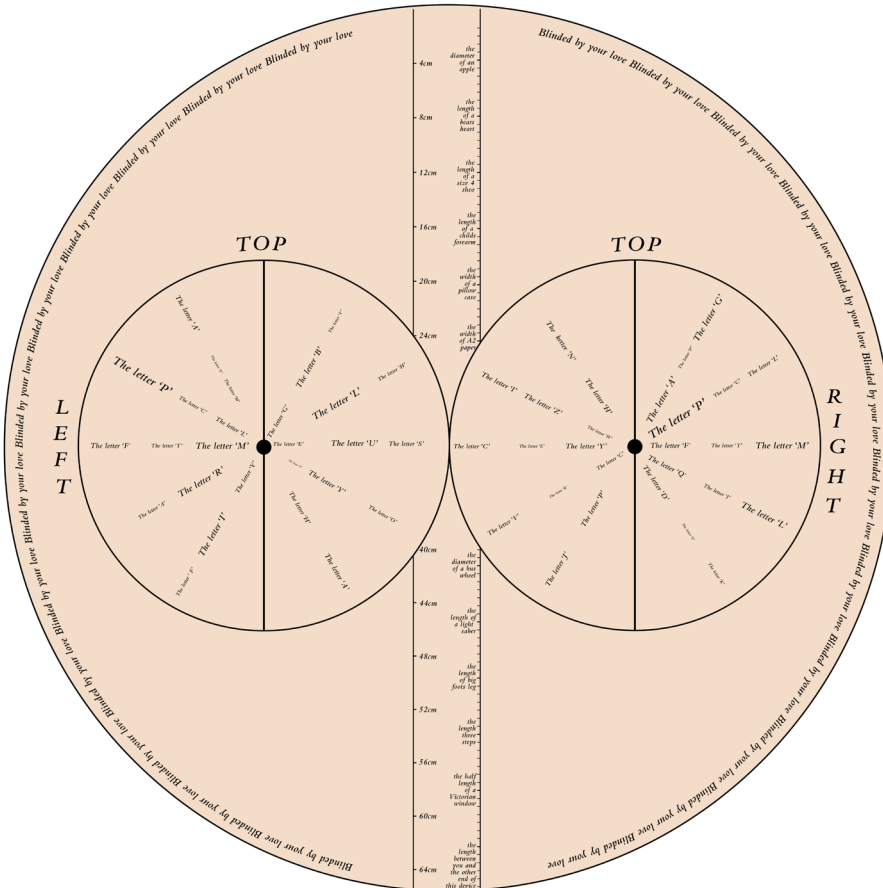
AMELIA

I think this is good. It seems to be about halfway up so I can still see you quite directly.

(BARRY circles 3 under "Segment number:".)

BARRY

Great. I will now unfold the Compatibility Census Obscurer Chart that we have had in front of us for the duration of this census. This board is the second element of Love Is Blind.



(BARRY stands and holds the Obscurer Chart so that the Obscurer Chart is facing AMELIA. He uses the ruler on the Chart to measure the distance between himself and AMELIA, making sure that he is standing at the right spot.)

Please focus on the Obscurer Chart while holding the Eye Obscurer in front of your chosen eye at the chosen segment.

As you are probably noticing, the Eye Obscurer alters and obstructs your focal vision. It will allow you to focus your peripheral vision on one particular area of the Obscurer Chart.

Looking at this chart, can you read out for me as many letters as you can distinguish?

(AMELIA focuses on the chart and reads out letters slowly as BARRY writes them down next to "Letters:".)

AMELIA

P - B - C - U - W - Y - M - L - P - T - A - Q - A - E - V - S - I

BARRY

Wonderful. You can now place the Eye Obscurer down on the table.

(BARRY folds the Obscurer Chart and places it on the table. He sits down again and turns the Logbook to face AMELIA, open to page 15.)

Looking at the letters you read out loud, can you form one word from these letters? You may arrange them but you may only use each letter once. You do not have to incorporate all of the letters. Please feel free to take your time.

AMELIA

Pasta.

BARRY

Perfect.

You might have noticed that I have recorded multiple outcomes again. The combination of your choice for the left eye and the Eye Obscurer Segment creates the possibility for a one in ten match.

Added to that result is the combination of found letters. As there is no obvious order for you to read the letters in, it will kill the probability of matching. And that is what we want! We want precise work to avoid a paralysis of choice.

For example, supposing even if two people choose the same 20 letters, then there are still more ways to order those 20 letters than the age of the universe. Which is 432 quadrillion seconds! Isn't that wonderful?*

AMELIA

Very impressive.

BARRY

I think so too.

(BARRY and AMELIA smile at each other.)

Great, well that is the last device in the Compatibility Census.

(BARRY writes down the following IndiCode.)

Left.Seg3.PBCUWYMLPTAQAEVSI.Pasta

Thank you so much for your time today. It was my pleasure to conduct The Compatibility Census with you. This completed Compatibility Census Results Logbook will now be placed back in the Compatibility Census Chest and be brought back to your Pata-District where the outcomes are saved and searched for potential matches.

Do you have any more questions?

AMELIA

When will I hear the result?

BARRY

If a match is found, we will contact you by your E-Address to ask you to come to your local Pata-District office. We will be in touch with you only in the case of a match. Your private data is processed digitally. Five IndiCodes are submitted per person to stretch the probability of matching.

AMELIA

When can I next take the test? And will my previous results still circulate within the database or will it become void?

BARRY

You can set up an appointment with a Pataphysician to retake The Compatibility Census as soon as one year from now but the recommended maximum time you should allow to lapse between Census appointments is seven years. When you retake the Compatibility Census, yes, your previous IndiCodes are overwritten.

AMELIA

Is dating allowed outside of the Census results?

BARRY

Yes, dating is allowed outside of the Census matches. In the event of a match, it is up to you what to do with your results.

AMELIA

Okay, great, then I guess my final question would be... what *exactly* are my chances of finding a match?

BARRY

Well, realistically Like The Back Of My Hand on its own would be an almost pointless exercise from an individual's perspective but likely to find a match, somewhere on a global scale. When combined with S/He Loves Me, Not, it would probably still be possible to find matches currently alive. However, as we have also included I've Got Butterflies the probability is probably pushed over the edge, and it would be unusual for matches to have overlapping lifespans.

Love is Blind and Let Me Count the Ways make it all simply just insane.*

(AMELIA contemplates this while BARRY packs all of the devices back into the Compatibility Census Chest. He closes the lid after securing all of the devices and smiles at AMELIA.)

AMELIA

I'm not sure if I find those odds comforting, but I do feel as if I can now lay this matter to rest. All of us have the same slim chance of finding love out there... and I suppose that means I'm not alone.

(AMELIA walks BARRY to the door.)

** Written correspondence with William Jackman, Mathematics PHD, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics at University College London*