



person” as it “helps people lose some inhibitions and disregard what’s typically seen as acceptable” (Zhang). It is agreeable that alcohol can lower the inhibitions of the shy. However, lessened inhibition is far beyond from an honest portrayal of one’s character. Honesty, properly defined as “the quality or fact of being honest; uprightness and fairness”, has no place in the sloppy kisses of the impaired (“Honesty”). It cannot be observed through glassy eyes, and it must be given earnestly from oneself. So while I can agree that alcohol makes the actions and intention of people who consume more observant and obvious, it is ridiculous to believe that “alcohol brings out a more honest version of yourself” (Michalchuk). If anything, alcohol summons the anti-honesty – it portrays the secrets that the intoxicated try to conceal. Whether it is through physical attraction, or emotional connection, alcohol is described to be suggestive of honest, raw connection, when in actuality it is assertive in forcing meaningless human interaction. For example, almost everyone has experienced the sexy late-night hookup with a complete stranger, ultimately ending in regret for both parties. Thankfully, I have yet to experience the dreaded “walk-of-shame”. But what I can say is that each time my ex-boyfriend got drunk, his sexual drive became disgustingly overbearing, which in turn made mine shrivel to non-existence. It felt like going to bed with a stranger. He would wake up the next morning and forget (or regret) the events of the night before. The Orlando Recovery Center posted an article expressing that “seventy percent of people who regretted having a sexual encounter stated that alcohol has been an influence” in their decision, speaking volumes to the fact that we as a society, place no value on having significant and heartfelt sexual exchanges (“How Alcoholism Affects Relationships”). Do not misunderstand me: I am not religious, nor am I conservative by any means. Perhaps it was the way I was raised, never actually growing up in a household with both a mom and a dad present. But a hasty, sloppy post-bar fucking is not a means of expressing true honesty, or in other words, our deepest vulnerabilities. Alcohol may give us the liquid courage to make initial interactions, but it lowers our sober standards, which ultimately are what

we must face once the sun rises. The idea of sober dating may seem unexciting. Nevertheless, seeking out love with the clarity of a sober mind will allow you to “listen more attentively, learning far more than you can while drinking” (Assimos). Alcohol consumption cheats our sober-selves of what we desire when seeking out a partner. Typically, alcohol encourages us to find certain physical or emotional characteristics much more attractive than we ordinarily would. So while Mr. Zhang and Mr. Michalchuk romanticize alcohol as a passage into one’s sheltered honesty, they cannot deny that the people they are likely pursuing start “lookin’ better every shot of Patron”, thus altering their standards due to inhibition (Ludacris). Honesty cannot be observed through impaired eyes, sipped from a cup, or detected with inhibition. True honesty should be given from a place of clearheaded vulnerability.

My romantic life has always been dancing with the presence of alcohol. I have resented it for taking precedence in the eyes of my ex-boyfriend, but also, I have been tempted of it now that I am supporting someone who largely practices sobriety. While my curiosity of incorporating alcohol and romance has grown since choosing the path to sobriety, society’s incorporation, or even the desire to incorporate, alcohol into the dating scene has vanished. Specifically, people of my age group do not find drinking to be an attractive attribute, as it is associated with undesirable stereotypes via social media influences, it perpetuates reckless behavior, and invokes a false sense of honesty and vulnerability. Today’s youth seemingly subscribe to the belief that something as risky as love, or ultimately vulnerability, is not to be taken lightly. This seriousness largely explains the disappearance of alcohol from modern dating. Removing alcohol from my dating life has provided me the clarity of what a loving, and most importantly healthy, relationship can look like. No longer is my love life plagued with the chaos and confusion brought on by inhibition. Mirroring my own journey on alcohol and romance, society’s perception of dating has grown to be delicate. With the absence of reckless, drunken love, brings the death of Dionysus upon us.