

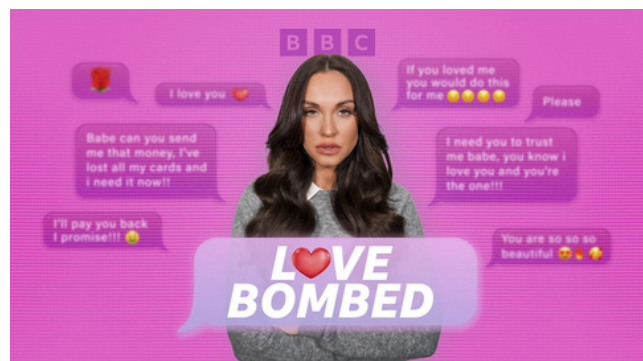
NEWSLETTER

5: February '24

FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome!

Welcome to the February newsletter. Hope you all had a great Valentine's day! I spent mine with my son, with a lovely lunch and then cooked dinner for my parents. Also on our social media pages was special post dedicated to the day and how to stay safe.

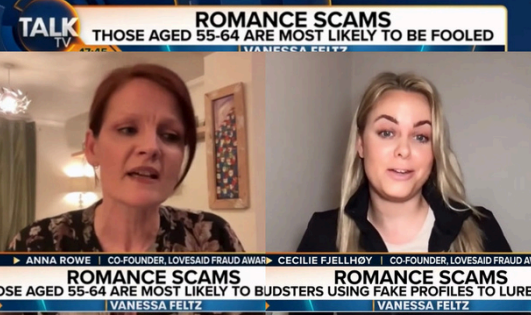


Podcasts

Also for Valentine's day, Series 2 of Love Bombed dropped for us to listen in. This series takes us through Sarah's experience at the hands of an overseas criminal, with a twist. Dr Elisabeth Carter and I were asked to contribute to this series and it was lovely to be able to help!

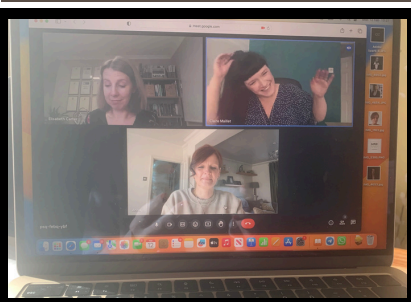


Fraudible, is a new podcast that has been created by the lovely Claire Mailet. Covering all areas of fraud, our episode is about all things romance fraud related and again I was with the wonderful Dr Elisabeth Carter. We had a bit too much fun! Thanks so much Claire!



Advocating

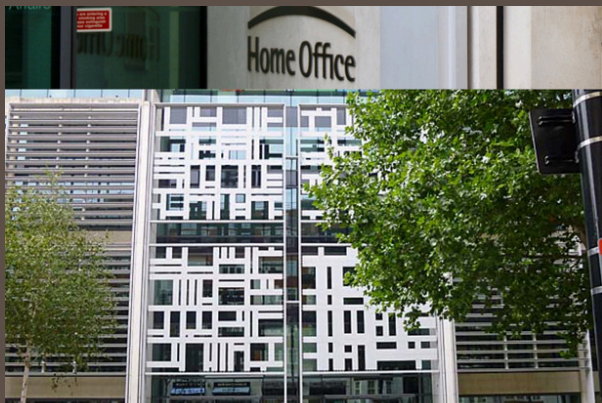
Continuing with our advocacy, we were asked to do an interview for Talk TV. As you can see, they didn't do any real research before putting misleading statistics across the screen and also victim blaming language. The presenter had decided that only women get scammed this way and despite being corrected, she continued with the same narrative. We don't think she got the responses she was hoping for from either of us!



What have we been up to in February?



We were invited to BBC Radio 4's Gap Finders series with the lovely Winifred Robinson. A beautiful location and a new door opening for many more victims, as well as offers of help from lots of wonderful individuals with some incredible skills to offer. Thank you to everyone who reached out, it really means a lot.



Later in the afternoon, we went to the Home Office where Cecilie was lending her victim's voice to an awareness video regarding financial fraud for deeper understanding with those who deal with victims.



We were honoured to be invited to New Scotland Yard to have a meeting with a passionate team of Fraud detectives who work in the Met Police.

Many of us, through our own experiences have difficult memories of the way we were treated but I can't stress enough how much is changing in this area and how dedicated these and other officers are to the cause. Our crimes in particular, are very complex and filled with difficulties but when there is a line of enquiry for them to get hooked onto, this force is on it.

There is a long way to go with some forces who cannot get their heads around in person romance fraud not being a 'civil' matter because they refuse to look at the intent behind the relationship being created in the first place. We'll keep pushing!

The build up to Valentine's day was a bit of a frenzy that we hadn't anticipated. The amount of awareness being raised in the media is amazing and long overdue. By Monday evening we had talked to around 10 media outlets, in which they asked for advice or thoughts around the current landscape of this fraud. Stopping the stigma around this so important and we talked a lot about the language they could use to help with this.

**Take care and stay safe,
Anna and Cecilie**