

*A series
profiling
your fellow
Routematchers.*

by Laura Lee Huttenbach

Melody Floyd

Outreach Client Advocate

It's easy to make Melody Floyd laugh. "I don't even need to know why people are laughing," she says. "If I see people laughing, I'm going to want to laugh. Happiness is contagious." Knowing this, I was surprised to learn two things. First, when she was thirteen, her house burned down. The fire happened on Christmas Day. Her family watched the blaze from the front yard, wearing pajamas, waiting for the fire hydrants to unfreeze. Though nobody got hurt, including the family pets, little from her home was salvageable. "It was kind of annoying when I got back to school," she says. "Because my [seventh grade] classmates were like, 'Oh no, what happened to your Christmas presents?' And I was like, 'Um, we lost everything.' It definitely made me appreciate experiences and people more than things." Four years later, when she was seventeen, she was hit by a drunk driver while driving a friend in her Jeep Cherokee. "We rolled three times and landed on the passenger door," she recalls. A man had to kick in the windshield to pull them out of the car and into an ambulance. Again, fortunately, nobody was seriously injured. Today Melody doesn't want to take a day for granted. "I try not to sweat the small stuff," she says. "Even if you're having a really crappy day, don't let it destroy you or define you or be more than what it is. Keep moving on." ➤



Q&A with Melody Floyd

Q: Where are you from?

A. I was born in Birmingham but moved to Atlanta when I was one. Even though I love traveling to new places, there's nowhere else I'd want to live.

Q. What did you want to be when you grew up?

A. A teacher. My mom taught second grade, and I grew up helping her grade papers. I was a total dork growing up. I'd be in the library all the time, waiting for my mom, reading books. In college, I went the business route instead. At Auburn, I majored in business, but I was one course away from being a minor in human development/family studies.

Q. What book changed your life?

A. I don't think one has. But I liked *Twilight* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*. I couldn't put those series down.

Q. What was your worst job?

A. I didn't really have a worst job. When I was fifteen, I worked at the hat store, Lids. It was in the mall, though, so it was cool. All the boys would come in, and I could flirt with them and sell them hats. I was the top seller there. I'd always upsell the customer with this plastic thing that you could clip onto the hat and put it in the dishwasher to clean. I sold so many of those.

Q. Do you like hats?

A. No. Hats don't fit my head. I think I have a little head. To work, I'd wear an Auburn hat in a kids' size. That fit my head a little better..

Q. What shows do you binge watch?

A. I love murder mysteries and true crime stuff like *The First 48* and *Dateline*. And I love silly comedies: *The Big Bang Theory*.



Friends. And *The Goldbergs*. It's hilarious. I'm an eighties baby, so watching that show makes me so nostalgic. Sometimes I'll hear a song on that show and go straight to iTunes to download it.

Q. Like what?

A. Cyndi Lauper, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." And "Glory of Love" by Peter Cetera. I used to have a huge crush on him, which is kind of creepy, because I was like five and he was really old.

Q. What did Melody look like in the eighties?

A. Side ponytail. Rough teeth before braces. Puffy track suits. And more Bedazzled shirts than you can imagine. Or anything you can iron onto clothes. My mom loved the Bedazzler.

Q. What's your favorite smell?

A. I love spa smells and relaxation candles. My sister and I just got back from a girls' spa weekend at Barnsley Gardens. We try to do a yearly sister trip. To me, eucalyptus smells peaceful.

Q. What is a memorable travel moment?

A. A client took me ice fishing in the middle of nowhere, Minnesota. It was actually terrifying because they drive a huge, massive, heavy truck on top of the ice. They drill a hole in



the ground, and you're wearing so many layers you can't put your arms down. But I caught a walleye! It was a really cool experience.

Q. What three people would you invite to a dream dinner party?

A. Amy Schumer. I feel like she would be my best friend. And Channing Tatum. I have a huge crush on him. He dances really well, so he'd be the life of the party. I think those two are enough.

Q. How do you feel about karaoke?

A. I will do karaoke, but I'm horrible. I was just in London, Ontario with one of our clients who wanted to do karaoke. Two of the guys there are in a band and are actually good. We did a bunch of songs, but I killed "Lose Yourself" by Eminem. It's sad that I'm not good at singing, because my name is Melody.

Q. Tell me a joke.

A. Knock, knock.

Q. Who's there?

A. Interrupting cow.

Q. Interrupting c—

A. MOOOOOOOO! Sorry, that's literally the only joke I know.

Q. Do you have a favorite movie?

A. *Wedding Crashers*.

Q. When are you happiest?

A. When other people are happy. I can latch onto emotions fast. Do you know that Subaru commercial where the girl is changing her car tire in the rain and you're seeing her struggle and when she's done, the camera pans out, and the dad is sitting in the car, and he says, "Good job"? That commercial is so sweet it makes me cry.

Q. How do you relax after a long day of work?

A. I'm a pretty simple gal. I just like meeting up with friends or family for drinks or dinner. Or maybe going on a Bumble date.

Q. Do you want the Bumble comment on the record?

A. Sure! If you know any good, single guys, maybe you can introduce me!

Q. What's your type?

A. Outgoing. Intelligent. Driven. Good family values. Good morals. Not douchey. It's surprisingly hard to find. So if anyone at Routematch wants to set me up . . .



Writer Laura Lee Huttenbach is the author of "The Boy is Gone" and "Running with Raven" (Kensington Press, May 2017). Her website is www.LLHuttenbach.com.