

## Introduction

There's something about Internet Mysteries rooted on Reddit that simply fascinate me. The amount of daily users from all walks of life, coming together to congregate on one single public forum has created a sense of community that's nearly unmatched in the current online landscape.

Because of this, the website's given us the ability to take a look into our fellow Redditor's post histories, giving us a small peek into the lives they live. Oftentimes, these are mostly mundane, however if you do a bit of digging, you'll find some that stand anomalous. Abandoned. And forever embedded within the corner they carved online.

In 2017, a user named u/FlippnFlopp made a post explaining that they're eager to try out a drug by the name of Datura. While the initial response was greatly against it, FlippnFlopp ignored their advice and did it anyway, creating disturbing update comments and leaving behind a baffled community that feared the worst had happened to them.

This is the story of u/FlippnFlopp, a Redditor that vanished.

-title-

## The Post

Our mystery begins on r/Drugs subreddit.

On the night of April 17, of 2017, u/FlippnFlopp would jump in with a simple question, *Finally got my hands on some Datura, how much should I take?* Their post reads the following:

*Hi guys,*

*I finally got some Datura to try out. I'm free tomorrow and I have the house to myself so I am really excited to try the effects of this interesting plant. I have around 60 seeds, some dried flowers and leaves. How much should I take for a nice, first time trip? I was thinking of crushing up x seeds and making tea with them, drink the tea and smoke a couple of leaves while the tea is starting to take effect.*

*Would 15 seeds be enough? Sources on the internet tell me a regular dose is around 10-20, but I've seen some talk about 30+ seeds.*

*Thanks guys!*

Yeah, it's probably not the best idea.

After this thread went live, the overwhelming majority of commenters expressed caution, warning that if they were to do it, it could have permanent, lifelong effects, and can even cause death. A user named u/XXXRektEmXXX recalled their prior experience with Datura, claiming that they're still scarred from it in hopes of deterring the OP from giving it a try:

*I bought two Datura Innoxia plants from a local greenhouse and ate/smoked both of them over the course of about two weeks...*

*I never noticed too many effects initially... dry eyes and mouth, hot flushed skin, rapid heartbeat... but I was %100 in a state of psychosis that whole time and for about two weeks after I stopped using it. Like*

*someone here said it's a deliriant so I wasn't even aware of how totally fucked I was. My friends got increasingly worried about me and I finally broke down mentally. About a month later I got diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder and severe panic disorder with derealization and depersonalization.*

While the effects felt by *u/RektEm* were severe, another commenter shared that it's not always the case. According to a *u/LogarhythmTheGreat*, they claimed that the potency of the drug can vary from person to person, and sometimes even through the time of day it's taken. After reading this, I went forth and cross-checked their claim with a psychedelic education resource named *TheThirdWave.co*, and found that while the time of day assertion isn't substantiated, Datura's so-called "fatal dose" ranges pretty widely. According to this guide, *A dose as small as 100mg of dried seeds have been known to kill, while others have taken substantially more than that and lived.* Considering how heavily any drug's effects can vary from person-to-person, this declaration isn't that surprising, however it is noteworthy nonetheless.

*-fade-*

So how many seeds should FlipnFlop take?

*Exactly Zero.*

*None.*

*I hope this is a shitpost. Good luck and report back please.*

*Best effects will be achieved by doing none of it I believe.*

*Throw that fucking hell in the garbage.*

...sounds pretty unanimous... let's see how they took it:

*UPDATE: I've crushed some seeds (around 15-16) in my mortar and put them in a glass of hot water. I've added some lemonjuice and sugar to mask the taste. I'll just have to roll my joint with the datura leaves and I'll be set to go!*

*I've decided that I'll be sipping on the tea and slowly smoking the leaves until I feel that the effect is strong enough.*

Of course.

After this, commenters were questioning why they'd subject themselves to such a dangerous substance. They were wished good luck, and were given advice for the phenomenon that they were about to experience. For FlipnFlop, it was the point of no return. The train left the station, and they were on a one way track to the inevitable consequences of Datura.

*-full fade-*

*It was at this point that commenters were tuned in. Everyone knew what was about to happen, however hope for the best remained abundant. RemindMe posts, well-wishes, and questions on an update flooded the space, and, at least in that moment, all eyes were on the OP.*

## *The Aftermath*

Five, fifty five in the morning. April 18<sup>th</sup>, of 2017.

*Google.com how normal again stop now.*

Needless to say, everyone's concerns were validated, however it was good to know that the OP was still alive. The replies here were mostly well-wishes, with a clear mood of apprehension.

A user named *u/emilsco* plead for the OP to respond to the thread when things became normal again, and another named *u/Pest\_P* gave their two cents on the matter as well. They explained that they'd ordinarily reassure the OP that they're going to be okay, however considering the unpredictable nature of the substance and their own personal experience, there unfortunately aren't any guarantees.

*-fade-*

*-clock intermission sequence from CROW-*

Five, fifty eight in the evening. Nearly exactly twelve hours later.

*-hard reveal to gif with subtle music-*

What you're looking at is a gif posted by a Redditor named *u/\_NITRISS\_* in the *r/Gaming* subreddit. It's allegedly depicting mammoths in... an *accurate battle simulator*. Yeah, they nailed that one.

So why are we here?

Welp, because someone we know very well by this point made their way to this post specifically.

*please thees big dog are fighting na okay*

It appears to me that *FlippnFlopp*'s trying to claim, that *Please, these big dogs are fighting, not okay*, with the "big dogs", of course, being their interpretation of the mammoths in that GIF. If I'm being honest, it's safe to say that *FlippnFlopp*'s discovery of this post likely didn't do them any favors, since it's depicting an animal quite literally launching another in the air. If I were ever to try a psychedelic of some sort, I have a funny feeling that visuals like this would put me in a pretty weird headspace.

*-fade-*

Unfortunately, after this post, though, *u/FlippnFlopp* would never return. Their thread continued to rack up comments pleading for any sort of update, however fear remained abundant - that the worst had happened.

*-cut to black-*

## *Dead Ends*

*-mini skit searching FlippnFlop-*

Sadly most of the search results surrounding the username *FlippnFlopp* aren't useful.

I was hoping to dig up accounts that they might've migrated to on other websites, but I frustratingly didn't obtain much. Scouring the surface web is an uphill battle. We can find a considerable amount of

posts asking *about* him, however concrete answers to that are nonexistent. There *was* a FlipnFlop (with one P) account I found that I thought could've been a potential lead, however considering that the last post they made was *eight* years ago on the r/NoFap forum, it's needless to say I was only left with dead ends.

Speaking of dead ends, the following is a list of accounts and their current status I found on other websites with the name FlippnFlopp.

Imgur – dead. Facebook – dead. StumbleUpon – holy shit throwback. Dead. Photobucket – dead. Reddit – dead end. Clozemaster? Doesn't work. Taringa.net – dead. BabyBlog.ru – this is getting weird, but dead.

I'm sure you get the picture by this point. The name is surprisingly common and the results increase tenfold once you factor in the other spelling of FlipnFlop. Brute-forcing our way into tracking this person down's only going to result in wasted time and a massive headache, so I'm going to pause my search here, and pivot my focus toward the actual drug he took because my curiosity is peaked.

What even is Datura? How serious really is it, and is it actually as fatal as it's made out to be?

-fade-

## *Datura*

To answer this, I made my way to a non-profit, educational resource by the name of Erowid.org that specializes in providing information about various psychoactive plants and chemicals. In their entry about Datura, they claim that *it's a woody-stalked, leafy herb growing up to 2 meters. It produces spiney seed pods and large white or purple trumpet-shaped flowers that face upward. Most parts of the plant contain atrophine, scopolamine, and hyoscyamine. It has a long history of use in both S. America and Europe and is known for causing delirious states and poisonings in uninformed users.*

This definition got me curious on the effects of atrophine, scopolamine, and hyoscyamine, and so I dug a bit further. According to Erowid, these are known as tropane alkaloids, capable of producing extreme psychoactive effects, including disorientation, confusion, hallucinations, delusions, panic, and more. Furthermore, the resource states that *"in this class of hallucinogens namely, users are, quote, absolutely convinced that the hallucinations and delusions are, in every sense, real; and may attempt to interact with them. This can range from amusing to dangerous".*

-fade-

I see. So if FlippnFlopp were to have done any digging on the risks of this substance beforehand, then they'd understand exactly what they were getting into. As we know by this point, an update from their aftermath is nonexistent and at this time, we have yet to gather a detailed, firsthand account about a Datura trip.

*So what's it actually like?*

A user on a website named Steemit.com, shared their story about three years ago. In their post, they claim that they had taken about eight dried seeds, and were eager to experience the effects. After doing so, however, they were immediately met with extreme thirst, causing their, quote *"mouth to dry up in a*

horribly scary way“ ... “the dose in which you get active effects is extremely close to the amount needed for a fatal overdose”. Following this, they share, in detail, what it was they went through:

*After one hour approximately, I felt a weird mix of euphoria and dysphoria. It had a bizarre sense of fun to it, as reality and imagination blended to form one. It gave me a very trippy feeling, which was at the same time chilling and scary. After quite a long time (Maybe two hours) I felt poisoned as I can't remember well how I acted or how I perceived the world exactly. I felt like I was dying honestly, I thought it was quite a good way to pass out... Everything felt surreal and I definitely had some weird hallucinations, which at the time felt realistic and normal. I went to bed and went to sleep quickly. I had a really weird dream in which something that looked like the Mothman was chasing me and I had to combat it with a lot of weapons that were homemade, as I did the creature became outrageous. That is all I remember from the event. The next morning I experienced depersonalization, photophobia, depression, anxiety and a horrible hangover that lasted more than a week. This substance is just not worth it...*

-fade-

Jumping over to a website named PsychonautWiki.org, we can observe yet another Datura story from 2012.

While this person's account is incredibly detailed, one section stood out to me, reading the following:

*I began feeling the effects of this potion before I was done drinking it. Granted, it took me about 15 minutes to finish because it tasted so foul, but most potions for the mind taste bad, I find; Its almost a right of passage in my eyes. Still, this kicked in notably fast when compared to my other Datura experiences. My brother had a much easier time downing his yogurt mix. I find, even with a scientific and rational mind, I enjoy the ritualistic aspect of these experiences, so I tried to be as serious about it as I could. This was an exploration of the mind, not recreational intoxication.*

*About 15-20 Minutes after downing the potion I was already feeling very "drunk" and distended from my body. I hadn't even stood up from my original seat; I was just battling nausea. I had been fighting an incredible urge to purge since the first sip, and considering the sheer intensity of the confusion I was facing, I was abandoning the idea that I was going to peacefully meditate myself into another plane of thought... I didn't even make it to the bathroom. I purged right back into the pot I had prepared my brew in (before I even got a chance to stand up). I might be paranoid, but I think this may have saved my life. I faded out of memorable consciousness after stumbling to the bathroom.*

*I wake up sitting in the dark, apologizing to my blanket for being so intoxicated. I don't know how I got here. I am more self aware now, but cannot think clearly, as I seem to genuinely think my blanket is my ex-girlfriend, who had deflated into a pile of self aware skin and muscle, due to the disappointment she felt; she had always disapproved of my studies, and claimed I was always just trying to "get high" ...She lays there, crumpled on my bed and starring at me disapprovingly with a morose look on her face... I hold her for a while, and apologize more... I fade out...*

*This fade seemed to happen quite a bit. I was slipping in and out of consciousness. With Datura, I still seem to function while Im out, as opposed to the more familiar nod associated with opiates. With an opiate I wake up right where I faded out, but with Datura, I wake up in a room I don't remember walking*

*into, in the middle of doing things, or talking to people in contexts that don't make any sense. Similar to a drunken psychosis.*

Now, it doesn't take much more of an explanation to understand why FlippnFlopp's actions were ill-advised. Considering the claim from Steemit about the fatal dose being extremely close to the one in which you feel the effects, combined with the possibility that FlippnFlopp *didn't* have anyone with him to make sure he was okay, it all seemed like the perfect storm of what *not* to do when trying out a substance for the first time.

...As a matter of fact, in some ways, it almost seemed like *too perfect* of a storm.

-fade-

## Theorization

-flip page of FlippnFlopp's profile up-

What on this page stands out to you as... a bit ingenuine?

Here, I'll give you a hint.

-wait, then zoom in to profile-

The profile was created on April 17th, the very same day that their one and only post was made...

Being entrenched in the world of Internet Mysteries, observations like this stand out to me like a sore thumb. It appears to me that this account was made for *the sole reason* of discussing their story about trying datura. While, sure, they potentially could be separating this from their personal account and life due to the taboo nature of something like this, it unfortunately discounts the validity of their entire account. Furthermore, the fact that they used a throwaway profile for this post explains the lack of other social media or forum handles with the name FlippnFlopp existing online. Without any sort of hint at their location, their main account, or their interests, tracking down the actual person and cross-checking a potential case record is impossible.

Now, don't get me wrong here, while I'm entertaining the idea that this could be fabricated, the sequence of events that took place lend credence to this being real. If we look at the post, it was made at 5:21PM eastern, on April 17th of 2017. Over the course of the next 26 minutes, FlippnFlopp would go from asking about trying it, to having it prepared. If we're considering the potential that their mind was made up on doing it and they had everything on-hand, then this time-frame for preparation checks out. Furthermore, the fact that they made their first update comment at *five fifty five in the morning*, also drives home the point that they could've been enduring their datura trip all night, falling in and out of consciousness. IF they reside in the US, then getting up that early *just* to post an update comment about your fake story seems like a bit of a stretch. I mean, we've seen determination like this before, but, something about the comment really drives this story home.

-fade-

Looking back, I suppose I entertained the idea of this being fake because... I guess I just really hope it is. I hope there wasn't a loss of a life after FlippnFlopp's curiosity led them to try a dangerous substance. I really hope we're all being bamboozled by a poster that simply wanted to make their mark, forever

cementing their creation within Reddit history. But, that's something that, at this point in time, unfortunately can't be answered...

*-full fade-*

### *Closing Remarks*

The r/Drugs subreddit lit up in April of 2017, much to the credit of FlippnFlopp. Tonight, we were able to learn about Datura while exploring a morbid mystery involving one person who's curiosity got the best of them.

Whether their story's real or fake, it's difficult to argue the fact that it was effective, getting people talking, sharing well-wishes, and crossing their fingers for an eventual update. As we know by this point, that update never materialized, and so we're all here, existing as onlookers and researching into the slightest sliver of a possibility that they made it through their experience alive.

Much like all of you, I truly hope they're still with us, but as we all know the only person that would be able to confirm that... is the one that's vanished without a trace into Internet History.

Thanks so much for watching. I'll see you in the next one. I love you all, and good night.

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