

# LOVE ME TINDER

A Short Play by James McDermott

## Characters

Tina *twenty two*

Ellie *twenty four*

TINA Swipe, swipe, click.

‘There’s no one new around you’.

Course there isn’t Tinder.

Everyone’s the same on here.

‘Finding people nearby’

Josie, 25.

Jesus Josie, Myra Hindley eyes or what?

Who cares? We’ve all got lovely eyes in the dark.

Like.

No match.

Didn’t wanna fuck you anyway you child murderess.

Danni.

Shit...

Thought you were *her* then, THE MALICIOUS THREE TIMING FLAT CHESTED BITCH.

Nope.

Mavis, 54.

‘Into fisting, rimming, role play and rape sim: looking for love.’

Doesn’t exist Mavis.

Nope.

Sarah...

Yeah, like.

No match.

Jess, why not, like.

No match.

Maeve, like, no match, Jodie, like, no match, Nina, like, no match

Claire...

Shit! Dick Van Dyke's, Sonia's 21<sup>st</sup>? It was going down, we were yelling Timber.

Been there, done that, bought the Canesten but... like.

No match with Canesten Claire, what the fuck?

Click: 'intelligent, bubbly, kookie' - kooky spelt wrong, not that fucking intelligent are we Claire? - 'in a...'

In a relationship.

Just looking for friends.

Like no match like no match like no match like no match stopped looking at the names the faces the ages now like no match like no match like no match like

It's a match!

**ELLIE** It's a match!

**TINA** Keep playing or message Ellie?

**ELLIE** Keep playing or message Tina?

**TINA** Click.

**ELLIE** Ooh...

**TINA** Ooh...

**ELLIE** And there's me thinking you'd look like Chucky.

**TINA** Nice rack.

**ELLIE** Nice eyes

**TINA** Hang on Ellie, 24

**ELLIE** How do I know that face?

TINA Click

ELLIE I'm just a small town girl, living in a lonely world. Well, rural Norfolk. Love Gaga, hate celery. Three years at law school, now I'm a barista. That's not a typo. Law wasn't for me. Coffee is. You should see my latte art. That's not a euphemism. Message me, say hey

TINA That's it! You served me the best gingerbread latte this side of the Broads. Or maybe I told myself it was the best cos it was served by such a fucking fitty.

ELLIE Ding.

TINA 1 new message from Ellie

ELLIE 'Hey. Really like the look of your profile Tina, you're a cute girl kiss'

TINA 'You too. You wanna come over and we can have some fun kiss'

ELLIE 'Sorry, I'm not really into that kind of thing, just looking for mates and dates kiss'

TINA Time waster. I don't do mates and dates Ellie. Not anymore. See you around.

That's what I think about typing. But I don't type anything. Cos Ellie's typing again...

ELLIE 'Don't I recognise you? You ever visited the Brewed Awakening Coffee Shop? We do the best gingerbread latte in North Norfolk kiss'

TINA 'Yes! I had it, you served me. It was delish kiss'

Fucking *delish*?

Feel stupid so I type out the full word: 'delicious kiss kiss'

ELLIE 'Don't suppose you fancy meeting there tomorrow for a gingerbread latte kiss? Chat, walk along Sheringham beach, get to know each other kiss kiss'

TINA *A chat? A walk? Get to know each other?*

ELLIE 'If that isn't too forward kiss'

TINA 'Yeah kiss'

WHAT THE FUCK AM I TYPING?

'4 okay kiss kiss'

WHY AM I TYPING THESE WORDS?

ELLIE 'Four's fab kiss'

TINA OHMYGODOHMYGODOHMYGOD

ELLIE 'It's a date kiss'

TINA IT'S A WHAT NOW?

ELLIE 'I'm sure it'll be delish kiss'

TINA I DON'T DO DATES

ELLIE 'Delicious kiss kiss'

\*

TINA I stand her up.

I get to the bus stop, best jeans on, T K Maxx, but.

What the fuck will we talk about?

How do you have a conversation with a stranger, face to face, who doesn't just want sex?

Have to tell her stuff. And she'll judge it. More bearing than getting naked that.

This is why I don't do dates.

Well... this and Danni...

Swipe, swipe, click.

Chloe, 27.

Like.

It's a match.

Click.

Message Chloe?

'Hey Chloe. You fancy coming over for some fun, say fourish kiss?'

'Sure thing. You're fit. Where are you?'

No kiss.

\*

**TINA** Chloe comes and goes but I don't really enjoy it.

Cos I can't stop thinking about Ellie.

All on her todd, table for two, two gingerbread lattes in front of her.

Just hope she's not feeling how I used to feel when Danni'd...

**ELLIE** Ding

**TINA** Ellie - 1 new message

**ELLIE** 'Hey, sorry I couldn't make today. Came down with a cold last night, Lemsip knocked me right out, only just stirred, no coffee pun intended (is that a pun?). Feel so bad for standing you up and not messaging til now. I've checked: you're not still waiting in the coffee shop so. Meet soon, maybe, if you still fancy it? Hope you can give me a second chance kiss kiss kiss'

\*

**TINA** My hearts galloping there's a storm in my stomach what the fuck am I doing here I don't do dates.

The two gingerbread lattes in front of me grow colder as I grow hotter, keep checking my watch four minutes late I knew she'd stand me up they're all the bastard same.

**ELLIE** Ding

**TINA** And then the café door opens

**ELLIE** And then her eyes find mine

**TINA** And she smiles at me with them

**BOTH** She's beautiful

**TINA** I'm cornered

**ELLIE** No turning back

**TINA** I smile

**ELLIE** I smile back

**TINA** But it's not a real smile

ELLIE It's a lid on a scream

BOTH OHMYGODOHMYGODOHMYGOD

\*

ELLIE Oh my God, you love her too?

TINA Love her? I'm her biggest fan I'll follow her until she loves me papa-paparazzi.

ELLIE My ex hated her.

TINA Don't talk to me about exes.

ELLIE I, kinda want to. After I've got you another coffee.

TINA I go to take a swig from my third gingerbread latte but I realise I've drained the cup.

ELLIE Staff discount. Fifty per cent off. Don't go thinking you're anything special.

\*

TINA This is my bus

ELLIE Right. I've err. Had a cracking afternoon

TINA Yeah. Me too.

ELLIE Listen Tina. Last week. When I...

I didn't sleep through our date.

Bottled it didn't I?

I haven't done this, anything like this in yonks, not since me and my ex...

Sharing stuff, starting something, trusting people...

But I decided to, jump. With you. Don't know why.

Probably those eyes.

Those eyes that look at me like I'm the answer to something.

Soz. Look. What I'm saying is: I think you're lovely.

TINA I err, better get my bus.

ELLIE Oh. Okay... Right then. Em. Hope to, see you soon?

TINA Yeah. Bye.

\*

TINA As the bus pulls away, I watch Ellie, in the rear view mirror get smaller and smaller

ELLIE As I walk home, I feel the thought of Tina get bigger and bigger, kinda, fill my head up

TINA Regret not kissing her

ELLIE Regret opening up to her

TINA Probably best after all that coffee

ELLIE Probably overshared cos of all that coffee

TINA I don't do dates

ELLIE I don't do feelings

BOTH Not since...

ELLIE But she is lovely

TINA Why did she have to be so lovely?

'Ding'

No. Danni was lovely when I first met her.

'Tinder - Lauren: 1 new message'

And look what happened there.

'Swipe, swipe'

Don't get involved.

'Click'

Don't get attached.

'Fancy hooking up?'

Just keep having fun.

ELLIE Ding

TINA Do not get attached

ELLIE 1 new message

TINA Ellie

ELLIE 'Thanks for a lovely afternoon. We should meet again soon kiss kiss?'

TINA 'Where shall we hook up Lauren? So hot for you'

No kiss.

\*

TINA We keep chatting

ELLIE As friends

TINA Tinder

ELLIE Texting

TINA Facebook

ELLIE Facetime

TINA Then we start meeting up

ELLIE As friends

TINA When I'm not meeting up with girls I've met on Tinder

ELLIE We meet at lunch times

TINA Then night times

ELLIE Sometimes weekends

TINA Nothing serious

ELLIE Got more and more in common

TINA I start using Tinder less and less

ELLIE Both love Gaga, Rita Ora



TINA But only cos I'm busier

ELLIE Orange Is The New Black

TINA With college

ELLIE Both love Wagamama's

TINA With... Ellie

ELLIE We go, to Wagamama's

TINA As friends

ELLIE Tells me about Dad

TINA She tells me about Mum

ELLIE Tells me everything that happened with her ex

TINA Tells me everything that happened with her ex

ELLIE How she hasn't been able to trust anyone since

TINA How she doesn't trust herself not to cheat cos she's kinda hooked on hook ups

ELLIE But how with me she feels

TINA With me she feels like

ELLIE And then one night we kinda

TINA Yep

ELLIE You know?

TINA As... friends?

ELLIE And the sex is

TINA Different

ELLIE Great

TINA Cos it

ELLIE It feels like it

BOTH Means, something

TINA And it feels like it means something more

ELLIE Every time we do it

TINA First person I've done it with more than once since

ELLIE Since

TINA But I'm not getting attached

ELLIE Cos she'll fuck me over

TINA I'll fuck her over

ELLIE So the question is

BOTH What do we do now?

ELLIE Cos I kinda wanna be more than

TINA Than friends with benefits so

ELLIE Think we kinda need to talk

TINA But I don't know what to say to her

ELLIE So we end up saying nothing

TINA And when we see each other we both sense we're so desperate to say something other than the shit we're saying

ELLIE But we're too scared to say something other than the shit we're saying

TINA And so the time we have together becomes shit

ELLIE And suddenly we're seeing less and less of each other

TINA And I'm starting to use Tinder more and more

ELLIE But whenever I hook up with anyone else

TINA Josie with her Myra Hindley eyes

ELLIE Canesten Claire

BOTH I keep wishing they were her...

ELLIE I can't stand it so I text her, Facebook message her, Facetime her but she ignores me

TINA Easier to ignore this than to acknowledge this, risk getting hurt again

ELLIE This is hurting

TINA But this is hurting

BOTH This is hurting more than it did with

ELLIE I keep trying to contact her

TINA I keep playing around

ELLIE But can I try forever?

TINA Can I play around forever?

ELLIE I vowed I wouldn't put myself in a position where I might get hurt again

TINA Maybe I *won't* get hurt again

ELLIE They're all the same

TINA Maybe she's not the same

ELLIE Fuck her

TINA Fuck it

ELLIE Fuck her?

TINA Fuck you Danni

ELLIE Do I forget her?

TINA Forget her

ELLIE Move on?

TINA I've got to move on

ELLIE Gotta start again

TINA Can't keep letting her fuck up my life

ELLIE I've gotta just

TINA Just

ELLIE Just

BOTH Jump

TINA Ding

ELLIE 1 new message

TINA 'Hey.'

ELLIE 'Hey.'

TINA 'How's you?'

ELLIE 'Great. How's you?'

TINA 'Great. How's you?'

ELLIE 'You've, just asked me that'.

TINA 'Shit. Yeah. Soz. Look. Can we meet?'

ELLIE 'Fourish?'

TINA 'Brewed Awakening Café?'

ELLIE 'Gingerbread latte?'

TINA 'That sounds...'

ELLIE 'Delish?'

TINA 'Delicious'

BOTH 'Kiss kiss'