

I had 50 Dates with Guys from Tinder

English translation of the article in Grazia Germany by Irene Nathalie Danneberg

50 times I stood in front of my closet; I put on my makeup and my hottest ensemble. Every week, for an entire year. I spent in total 150 hours with men I had never met before. Only I did not find him: The One. Everything started with my studies at Goldsmith University in London, an art school. I had a small man problem: there were not enough. I was 30 years old and had been single for 3 years. That should change. But when I went to student parties I was almost only among women. It was near impossible to meet a man. Additionally, I was new in London and I felt like an outsider. It was difficult to connect to people. Then I thought: I will try online dating. I made a Tinder profile and started my blog "50 dates of grey" where I wrote about each date. For this blog I even made short movies with my mobile in the public toilet so I could give an update about the action. I did not tell that to any of my dates, of course.

Did anyone ever find themselves on my blog? Nobody except one, that was #14. A banker type. I gave him the nickname "Rigor Mortis" in my blog. The reason for the nasty name lies in the experience I had with him: I went to his place after a date. But when he lay on top of me he started doing something I did not want. I literally had to beat him off of me before he stopped. Of course I wrote about this in my blog. When the banker found out, don't ask me how, he started to make my life a living hell. He bombarded me with texts and threatened to sue me. At some point he finally let me alone. That was really the worst experience that I had to have. Thank God nothing happened again.

Unfortunately so many men were dishonest and acted as if they were interested in a relationship with me. But they had only one goal: sex. How disappointing and frustrating! Why do men not just say directly what they want? That would make things much easier. One guy even disappeared when I was in the restroom. And 2 others did not even show up. One guy, whom I call in my blog the "Greenwich Punk," I was already sleeping with. He planned 2 dates with me. He then canceled the next meetings on short notice. When I asked why, I just got excuses by text message. I felt miserable.

Often the chance for additional dates disappeared after the first meeting. That was sad, because there were 4 of the men I would have liked to spend more time with... but they were not interested in me.

After my studies I went to Berlin, here I also went on Tinder dates. While doing that I noticed that the Germans have a very different mentality than the British. Berlin is open; People come and talk to me when I am in clubs and bars. In London it was another situation. In this place men would only come to me in bed. But here I deal with men who want to date every couple of weeks. But then there is nothing going on. They become submerged and don't appear again. Strange behavior. But in Germany I also did not find the big love. Anyway I've learned something. One should put their cards on the table. Make the other person know that he can just be himself. When you are open, the other person can be open, it is that easy. And that is the best prerequisite if you want a relationship to work. If you try to perform desirability, the truth comes out eventually. And that generates only disappointment.

About Tinder: I am not looking there anymore. It is not for me. Because I have the feeling that it is

only about consumption. The person becomes a product. Search, click, date, consume, discard. At least it was nice practice. I did not find a partner. I think I will search again in a more conventional way.