

# WHY I'M QUITTING DATING APPS

As Tinder turns 10, journalist Katreen Hardt, 54, is hoping to fall in love with a man in 'real life'

**W**e were three lines into texting each other after we'd matched on the dating app Tinder when the advertising executive suggested we meet for a drink in 45 minutes. It was 9.45pm on a Tuesday in June and I was in bed as I had to get up early for work the next morning. 'Shouldn't we talk first before arranging a date?' I wrote back. Immediately, I was informed that my lack of spontaneity was 'unsexy'. So I did what any other

mature woman would do – I blocked him.

Then there was the software developer who late one night wanted me to come to his hotel room where he was staying on business. And the engineer who I suspected was married (call it woman's intuition) and, when he confessed that he was, wrote, 'I have a divorced friend I could set you up with but, if the two of you hit it off, I get to have my way with you first.' I thought his comment was beyond offensive.



Katreen found online dating exhausting

## CATALOGUE OF WOMEN

It's demeaning, not to mention exhausting, the way in which men think they can treat a single middle-aged woman like me online. It's as if I'm not even a person. While they flip through their virtual catalogue of would-be partners, swiping to the right if they like what they see (because let's be honest, no one bothers to read the dating profiles), it boils down to one thing and one thing only: sex. Knowing that I'm offering myself up as an object of desire to the hundreds of horny men in my vicinity just makes me feel, well, cheap.

As an attractive and successful woman, I don't need the validation, thank you. Since my last relationship ended two years ago, I've learnt how to

confidently navigate my way through life, which also means I know how to give myself the Big O – no man required.

Looking for love on a dating app is also very time-consuming. I've spent hours swiping before finding one that tickles my fancy. And if the men aren't demanding to meet me right away, our superficial text conversations come to an abrupt stop once they've ceased to ask me a single question.

It is, quite frankly, boring.

## 'HIS WORDS WERE BEYOND OFFENSIVE'

### A NEW APPROACH

I did meet a professor through Bumble, another dating app, after we spent the summer texting and talking on the phone. Lunch turned

into dinner and a sloppy kiss goodnight.

Still, as fun as that date was, I've made the decision to delete Tinder and Bumble. Why? Because I can do without those anxiety-inducing moments – like that time I gave a man my number, only to have him preach to me about what he hates about women. Awful, right?

So, good riddance online dating. I'm venturing out into the world in the hopes of meeting and falling in love with a man in real life. Just like way back when.