

Trend spot

This zesty Anya Hindmarch vanity case is for the woman who has everything and nothing to carry it in. £275, NET-A-PORTER.COM



London Life

The Tinder trap



OBVIOUSLY, there were bad dates before Tinder. Dating contains an inherent risk that you will encounter one of society's accidents: an abrasive creep whose behaviour causes you to extricate yourself swiftly and shower – twice – when you get home. But this risk is far higher on Tinder. There is also something alchemically characteristic to the app itself – Tinder yields anecdotes like blind dates never do.

Sometimes, the anecdotes are awful in an anodyne way: boring sods boring on about boring topics. But sometimes, they're awful in a truly awful way. Like aristo singleton James Lumley-Savile's experience: one of his dates with Hungarian girl Ida Pap started at a farmer's market, involved a little MDMA and some wine, and ended with him clutching the knives at his £800,000 home in Fulham after Pap apparently made a series of disturbing revelations about her own history of violence. He was taken to court but cleared of knife and affray charges.

Trends

As one man ends up in serious hot water after a nightmare date, **Phoebe Luckhurst** hears London tales of terrible right swipes

Few have had an experience quite so unsettling – but the capital has played backdrop to some truly jarring meet-ups. London: these are your Tinder horror stories.

The most predominant theme is one party moving things “down to business” prematurely. One 29-year-old who works in finance went on a date with a guy who invited her – five minutes in – to “sexy along to the bathroom – and I’ll join you in a few minutes”. She escaped via the loos. One 24-year-old masters student recounted: “There was this one that lasted all of 45 minutes. When I suggested getting a second drink, he suggested going back to mine. I said no, but that I was happy to have another beer – at which point he was

suddenly ‘really tired’ and had to be ‘up early for work’. He propositioned me again via the app three days later.” She also encountered a “pervert photographer” who seemingly used the app to find models for his life photography.

Some daters – hitherto assumed to be functioning members of civilised society – reveal themselves to be in the grips of deviant obsessions. One girl – a twentysomething chemist – was asked mid-date to buy a chap a Build-A-Bear so he could hug it and think of her; the same guy also called – out of the blue after they’d met up once – to invite her to help him pleasure himself over the phone. It’s not clear but eminently possible that he was hugging the bear at the same time.

One Londoner was in Paris and decided to try and find a French fancy: she brought the chap back to her place after drinks. He went to the loo upon arrival and returned 10 minutes later, ashen-faced, to inform her that her bath was now “full of excrement”. In other bodily stories, one chap cooked a girl a spicy curry – she’d said it was her favourite. It certainly did the trick as she ended up in his bedroom and things were going well until she realised he hadn’t washed his hands after handling the spices. She ran off in search of medical attention and couldn’t walk properly for days – his romantic gesture went unappreciated.

More pedestrian horrors include meeting people who look absolutely nothing like their picture, or realising they’re tasteless losers. One twentysomething girl who works in headhunting went on a second date with a guy she’d previously met post-work; then he’d been dressed smartly in a suit but this time he was wearing dad jeans, a

Continued on Page 34

Festive five Party polishes



Feet first: a new coat of paint for Crimbo

Do you feel it in your fingers? Do you feel it in your toes? Christmas is all around you.... so get a mani/pedi quick before Santa comes a-calling

Barber & Parlour

No appointment? No problem. On the first floor of Redchurch Street's multitasking drop-in beauty joint you will find the Cheeky Parlour, where the signature Pick Me Up mani/pedi is super-quick and superb value for money. £37 for 45 minutes. urcheeky.com

Aveda

Settle in for an hour of pampering at High Holborn's holistic beauty institute and choose between three focuses – stress-fix, shampure for sensitive skin or their anti-ageing green science – for a truly tailored mani/pedi treat (£96). avedainstitute.co.uk

The Painted Lady

At this East End vintage boutique salon impeccably coiffed technicians will paint your toes and talons to perfection in 1hr 30 minutes (£38). Or if you're in a hurry, walk out with a shape and polish in just 40 minutes (£20). thepaintedladylondon.com

Marian Newman at Atelier Beauté

Renowned nail expert Marian Newman is in residence at Josh Wood's all-singing, all-dancing Holland Park salon. Her exacting and prescriptive approach to nails provides perfect results every time. £110 for 105 minutes (POA with Marian). joshwoodcolour.com

Nails & Brows

Mayfair's specialist grooming boutique caters to all your nail needs. We recommend the Haute mani/pedi for a classic finish (£78 for 45 minutes) or indulge in the new combo by natural skincare brand Green & Spring (£114 for 1 hour). nailsandbrows.me

Emma McCarthy



WHO WILL BE
THE NEW KING?
FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER
SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER
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KEMPTON PARK

