

MY DATING APP

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INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

The setting is an "Appleby's" type restaurant/bar.

Seated at a table, fiddling with her phone, is BRIDGET (30) a modestly-attractive woman.

VERONICA (30) also modestly attractive, approaches the table.

VERONICA

Oh, you got our drinks already?

BRIDGET

I know how to get things done.

Veronica sits at the table. Bridget continues fiddling with her phone.

VERONICA

You sure do. So what you doing there, tormenting yourself?

BRIDGET

I'm almost done. Just give me a few more seconds.

Bridget rushes through several more swipes on her phone.

VERONICA

Almost done? I don't think so, because you're never going to be done.

Bridget puts her phone away.

BRIDGET

What do you mean, never done?

VERONICA

With your dating app. You'll never be done, because you're a swipe-slave.

BRIDGET

I don't think it's that bad.

VERONICA

Really? How many times a day do you swipe?

BRIDGET

I don't keep track.

VERONICA

Classic swipe-slave behavior.
Denying that there's even a
problem.

BRIDGET

I doubt that I'm any worse than you
are.

VERONICA

Oh you're a lot worse than I am,
because I don't swipe at all.

BRIDGET

How can you not swipe?

VERONICA

Because I have a new dating app
that doesn't require any swiping.

BRIDGET

What kind of app is that?

VERONICA

It's my own app, and I call it,
Sitting Around Waiting For Someone
To Fall In My Lap.

BRIDGET

So your new app is just giving up?

VERONICA

To the contrary. Perpetual swiping
is giving up.

BRIDGET

How is swiping giving up? At least
I'm trying.

VERONICA

No you're not. You're just turning
your never-ending frustration into
a fun little video game that keeps
your mind off the real problem.

BRIDGET

And what exactly is the real
problem?

VERONICA

The real problem is that your video game, oops, I mean your dating app, is just a means of connecting all the people who aren't interested in a relationship.

BRIDGET

That's not true. My app is not about hookups. I know some of them are, but not this one.

VERONICA

Hookups aren't the problem. The problem is the people who say that want a relationship, but then they just can't stop playing the game.

BRIDGET

What game?

VERONICA

Your video game. They're addicted to swiping, just like you are.

BRIDGET

Oh quit. No-one's addicted to swiping.

VERONICA

Then why don't they stop?

BRIDGET

Because they haven't found the right person.

VERONICA

And they never will. Because there's always going to be someone better waiting for them, just after the next swipe.

BRIDGET

Why are you suddenly so down on dating apps?

VERONICA

Why am I down on a process that connects me with apparently normal men, who are just waiting for the right moment to reveal the deep-seated psychological deformity that they've been hiding?

BRIDGET

Did you have a bad experience?

VERONICA

Not at all. My dating app experiences have been completely normal. And that's the problem.

BRIDGET

Well, something's turned your attitude around.

VERONICA

I just came to my senses, that's all.

BRIDGET

Something must've happened.

VERONICA

You want to know the truth?

BRIDGET

If you can bring yourself to tell it.

VERONICA

The truth is, I started thinking about what an honest profile would look like, and I came up with this. Emotional masochist looking for damaged men to trample all over what little dignity she still has left. That's when I decided to get out.

BRIDGET

Okay, if you think giving up is the answer.

VERONICA

I'm not giving up. I'm just switching to my new swipe-free app.

BRIDGET

You know when you talk that way, it makes it sound like it's a real app.

VERONICA

It is a real app.

BRIDGET

Okay, why don't you whip out your phone and show it to me then?

VERONICA

It's not a phone app, it's a mental app. You load it up here.

Veronica taps the side of her head.

BRIDGET

Oh, you mean in your imagination?

VERONICA

No, I'm mean in your life, the one that doesn't exist on your phone.

BRIDGET

If you say so, but I think a better name for your app would be, Spinster, because that's where it's going to get you.

Veronica strains to look across the room.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

VERONICA

You see that guy over there?

Bridget looks across the room.

BRIDGET

I see a bunch of guys over there.

VERONICA

The guy in the blue top. Is that Alex Dunleavy?

Bridget looks across the room again.

BRIDGET

Yeah, I think it is. Didn't you guys have a thing in college?

VERONICA

Briefly. It didn't really work out.

Veronica waves at ALEX (30) a modestly attractive man.

Alex rushes over to the table.

ALEX
Veronica, how are you?

VERONICA
Good, how are you?

ALEX
Not so bad.

VERONICA
You remember Bridget?

Alex looks at Bridget.

ALEX
Oh yeah. Sorry I didn't recognize
you there at first. How are you
doing?

BRIDGET
Okay.

ALEX
(to Veronica)
So last I heard you were married.

VERONICA
That didn't work out.

ALEX
Yeah, neither did mine.

VERONICA
(enthusiastically)
Really.

ALEX
Unfortunately, we didn't appreciate
what we had, and now we're both
cast into the pit of singledom.

BRIDGET
So you must be hitting the dating
apps pretty hard then.

ALEX
I was for a while, but finally I
came to my senses, and just packed
it in.

VERONICA
(enthusiastically)
Really. So did I.

ALEX

No way. You're the only other person I know who's been able to get off them.

VERONICA

Same with me. I thought I was the only one in the world standing up against swipe-slavery.

ALEX

We're like minds.

Bridget rolls her eyes.

VERONICA

I think we're more than that. I think we're made for each other.

Bridget looks pained.

ALEX

We might be. Do you want to get together some time?

VERONICA

Absolutely. Give me your phone and I'll put my number in.

Alex hands his phone to Veronica and she enters her number.

ALEX

Would tomorrow night be too soon to see you?

VERONICA

If I can wait that long.

BRIDGET

Aren't you two getting a little carried away here?

Alex looks at Bridget and then to Veronica, and nods toward Bridget.

ALEX

Uh oh, sounds like dating app resentment.

BRIDGET

(annoyed)
What are you talking about?

ALEX

Dating app resentment. It's the resentment that swipe-slaves feel when they see someone finding a partner without using an app.

BRIDGET

I don't think so.

VERONICA

It's pretty obvious Bridge.

BRIDGET

The only thing obvious here is two desperate people latching on to each other because they're not willing to put themselves out there online.

Alex smiles knowingly.

ALEX

Bridget, I can understand why someone who's addicted to seeking out degradation from total strangers, might not be able to appreciate the joy of being free, as Veronica and I are. But what we have is something special, and I think it's going to work out very well for us.

Alex looks at Veronica and smiles.

Veronica smiles back.

VERONICA

I do too.

ALEX

Well, I've got to get back with my chums, but it was nice seeing you again Bridget, and it's going to be great seeing you again tomorrow night Veronica.

VERONICA

Can't wait.

Alex walks back across the room to join his friends.

Veronica beams at Bridget.

BRIDGET
I can't believe this.

VERONICA
Can't believe what? That my dating app is working?

BRIDGET
This isn't your dating app. This is just sheer improbable chance.

VERONICA
That's how my dating app works, by giving chance a chance, instead of burying my nose in my phone.

BRIDGET
But all you're doing is re-cycling romantic cast-offs from your youth.

Veronica beams again.

VERONICA
Yeah, isn't it great? We're going to absolutely crush this relationship.

BRIDGET
How can you say that? You two barely even talked.

VERONICA
That's the beauty of my app. Because there's no shopping around, we're guaranteed to be the best available match for each other.

BRIDGET
So what are you saying, you're going to crush the relationship because you have no other options?

VERONICA
Genius, isn't it?

Bridget fumes.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
What's wrong? It looks like you're not very happy for me.

BRIDGET
This isn't fair. You didn't do anything to deserve this.

VERONICA

Didn't I?

BRIDGET

No, you didn't!

VERONICA

Sure I did. I used the Sitting
Around Waiting For Someone To Fall
In My Lap app, and it worked. So
swipe that swipers.

Veronica delightedly swipes her fingers back and forth while
Bridget looks aggrieved.