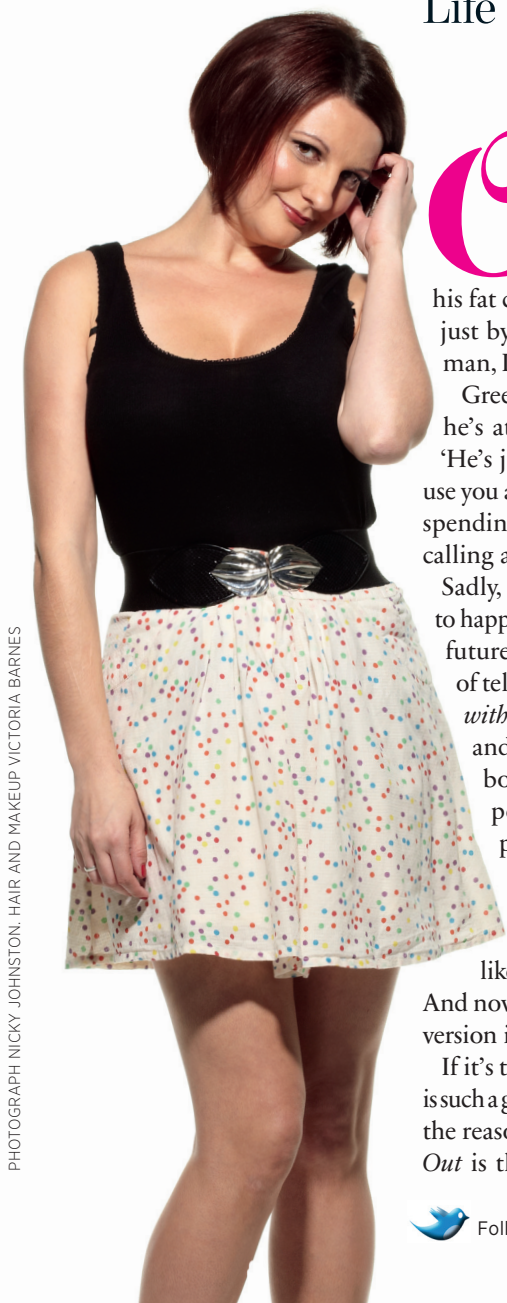


Sex AND THE SINGLE GIRL

Hands up if you're single...

Life as a single girl would be so much easier if men came with labels, says Rosie Mullender



PHOTOGRAPH NICKY JOHNSTON. HAIR AND MAKEUP VICTORIA BARNES

One problem with being single is that men don't come handily labelled, like those traffic-light stickers you get on ready meals. I'm not interested in knowing his fat content – you can pretty much tell that just by looking at him. No, when I look at a man, I'd like to know if he's single or not.

Green would mean he is; red would show he's attached, and amber would say, 'He's just been dumped and will use you as a rebound fling before spending the next four weeks calling at 2am to cry.'

Sadly, this idea is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future. But is there a way of telling if a man's single without going to his flat and checking for dents in both pillows? If you're in possession of a GBE, you've probably heard of Grindr. It's an app that uses GPS to tell you about other single gay men in the area – often with a picture. You can chat to anyone you like the look of and meet up within minutes. And now, thanks to popular demand, a 'straight' version is being developed.

If it's the same as gay Grindr, I'm not sure this is such a good idea. According to Paddy McGuinness, the reason there isn't a male version of *Take Me Out* is that the possibility of sex would mean

none of the men would bother turning their lights off. (For the uninitiated, the girls leave their lights on if they like a man.) By the same token, knowing a woman is single, attractive and nearby is probably all the information men need.

Women, however, tend to be more discerning. In an online survey of what men and women find attractive, men rated good looks higher than women, who preferred all-important honesty, humour, kindness and dependability – qualities tougher to convey through an app.

But when I really thought about it, I realised that with 'Grindr for Girls' it will be up to us to set the ground rules. Instead of using the app to hook up (although we might do that too), we'll use it to take the is-he-isn't-he agony out of flirting, and as the world's best ice-breaker ("Is this *your* bicep? Well, hell-ooo"). Although it's as easy for him to lie about his single status on an app as it is in real life, personally, I think it'll be a great way of cutting to the chase. Life's too short to find out he's interested after two hours of thinking, 'Yeah, Rosie Smith. Got a good ring to it.'

That's until my genius label scheme comes into effect, obviously.

? Would you use a Grindr-style app for girls? Email cosmo.mail@natmags.co.uk

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