

The Tinder Game

By

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The Tinder Game is a verbatim play which takes real conversations from the dating app, Tinder, and mixes them with interviews of people's thoughts and experiences of the game.

Michelle Sewell 2015

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Cast of Characters

JAMES: 24, MALE. About James:
Me- ambitious, advenurous,
caring, sensual, risk taker,
5'7, caring, toned, apeak
my mind, compassionate,
seductive, follow my heart,
wild backpacker..

MICHELLE : 24, FEMALE About Michelle:
writer, ambitious, foreign.

CHRISSEY: 23, FEMALE About Chrissy: I'm
5'9 since everyone is putting
their height, no idea Stalk
me here Chrissy_Lord

ABI: 29, MALE About Abi: Norwich,
Bearded and single

Writer's Note:

The stage is separated into four glass boxes, within which contain the worlds of **CHRISSEY, MICHELLE, JAMES AND ABI**. They should be distinctly different worlds. When in the Tinder World, they are lit in red.

A / means a character interrupts.

Spelling and grammar errors and emoticons indicate messaging and speech patterns and behaviors of characters. The words do not need to be said how they are written, but can be.

If a character's name appears multiple times in consecutive order, they are sending multiple messages.

The **TINDER (V.O)** is a recorded voice. It can be any age or gender.

ONE

MICHELLE's box is lit. She stands. As Tinder loads, the loading sign washes over her.

TINDER (V.O)

TINDER. 17 PLUS.

Anonymously "Like" or "Pass" on pictures of people Tinder suggests in your area.

A picture of a random, KALEM, washes over her .
Not Interested? A swipe-left on a picture indicates you're not interested and they're gone.

A picture of JAMES washes over her capsule.
Like? A swipe-right on a picture indicates you like James. Mutual swipe-rights are informed of their match and then given the ability to contact each other.

Rule One. Be good looking.

Rule Two. Never message immediately after a match. Always wait at least one to two hours.

Rule Three. Do not fall in love.

Rule Four. Don't drink and Tinder.

Rule Five. Don't get too scroll-happy, you may accidentally say "no" to a "yes". There are absolutely no do-overs in the Tinder World.

Welcome to Tinder!

(CONTINUED)

Michelle stands, curious, as photos of men and women scroll over her.

MICHELLE

No. No. No. Definitely not. Ew...no no...oh hello!...

TWO

In Tinder World. The happy beeping and vibrating noise of Tinder. Lights up on everyone. CHRISSY and MICHELLE standing, JAMES leaning, ABI sitting.

TINDER (V.O)

Congratulations! You have a new match! Message or Keep Playing?

Silence.

JAMES

Hey

MICHELLE

Hey

CHRISSY

Hiya

ABI

Hoya

CHRISSY

Morning!

ABI

So your less than a kilometre away...Whereabouts would that be?

JAMES

Hi, how /are you? :)

CHRISSY

Hey I'm good!/ How are you?

ABI

Hiya what's/ cracking?

CHRISSY

Hi Michelle,/ thanks for swiping right. Sweet pics, are you a student? X

JAMES

Hey Chrissy, I'm James/ how are you

MICHELLE

Hey! Cute dog

CHRISSEY

Heya!/ Good weekend? X

ABI

Hel/loo

JAMES

Hey :D How's you?

ABI

If you had to be mauled to death by an animal what would be the worst way to go

MICHELLE giggles.

CHRISSEY

Based on your pics you have quite a leap, lol

JAMES

I was really hoping you'd match with me

ABI

I'd say orca, because they don't just kill you, they play with you first.

MICHELLE crosses her arms.

CHRISSEY

Bonsoir! Thanks for the swipy-ness, it's warmed me up a little as I'm stuck in the cold waiting for a/ bus this evening, brr! X

JAMES

I really liked your profile

MICHELLE

Thanks./ How are you?

ABI

I am/ good

MICHELLE

Do you come here often??

CHRISSEY

Not particularly /no, do you?

MICHELLE

Nice Selfie!

ABI stands.

JAMES

Blue penguins.

Sorry, just wanted something to break the ice

CHRISSEY giggles and lies down.

MICHELLE

So what do you do?

JAMES

I live an exciting life and work in retail! /How about yourself?

CHRISSEY

You want to break ice with penguins??? Surely a polar bear is/ more fitting!

MICHELLE

I'm a student.

JAMES laughs

ABI

You should see a doctor, because you're lacking vitamin me! :p

JAMES

Ha

CHRISSEY

Haha, it took me a minute to realise that wasn't a real question, but a classic pick up line.... haha derp

MICHELLE

Ah cool!/ Do you enjoy working in retail?

CHRISSEY

I'm in my bed, I'm a little bad.

*CHRISSEY touches herself. ABI touches himself.
JAMES leans forward.*

MICHELLE

Do you come here often?

ABI

Only when nature calls....

Wanna see how quick I can comb my hair ?

(CONTINUED)

ABI licks his lips.

JAMES

Did you have/ a good weekend?

CHRISSEY

Couldn't sleep at all last night

ABI

...is this love?

THREE

Not in Tinder world. Spotlight on JAMES.

JAMES

So about two years back I was due to meet (yet another) tinder date. Picnic on the beach. Get her near *me* so I don't have to travel. But... so then she texts me to challenge me to a picnic-off. She make the sweet and me the savoury.

Hello, that's different! GAME ON! Spend hours preparing a haloumi and lemon salad! I'll be damned if I am letting her win.

So I get to this gazebo, early. And I'm standing alone with a picnic looking like a flustered, stood up, slightly pathetic loner.

The 10 minutes it took her to arrive felt like an hour. It was well played.

We dated for a year after that. She kept saying 'how can this be a real thing? We met on Tinder.'... She was the greatest love I've ever known.

FOUR

In Tinder World. Lights up on each box. JAMES sits, CHRISSEY leans, MICHELLE and ABI stand.

JAMES

Hey, nice to match you. Soo guess you've read my profile? :)

MICHELLE

So what are you on /Tinder for?

CHRISSEY

I did, just now. As a writing student, I felt tempted to advise you to rephrase a bit, but that's just my tendency to meddle.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

No please meddle.

JAMES

meet new people, see what happens, no real hidden agenda. What are you on here for?

CHRISSEY twirls her hair.

ABI

Tbh im kinda the live by the gun die by the gun type of guy :p

MICHELLE and CHRISSEY sigh.

MICHELLE AND CHRISSEY

Thrilling

ABI slumps.

CHRISSEY

Being "simple and straight to the point" and saying you're just here to hook up is generally less effective than breezily saying you're looking for something fun and casual toward the end of the profile.

ABI AND JAMES

What about you?

JAMES

From your profile, it's not clear what you're on here for. However, the description would suggest you're looking for a relationship?

MICHELLE

Honestly,/ I'm writing a play at the moment about tinder.

ABI

Honestly /I don't really have any female friends.

JAMES

Honestly...

CHRISSEY

Honestly...for some no strings attached sex

ABI's box blacks out.

CHRISSEY

However, I prefer to reserve judgement as to whether I'm looking for anything at all- casual or otherwise- until I've met someone in person.

JAMES

That's cool!

CHRISSEY'S box blacks out.

MICHELLE

Haha! You know you do have the classic picture of - hugging dog photo...

JAMES

I have so many pictures of me hugging my dog that I've lost count.

MICHELLE

Hehe!! My dog is sooo far away!!

JAMES chuckles.

JAMES

Where does your dog live?

MICHELLE pauses.

MICHELLE

Well I'm from Australia so he's back home in Sydney!!

JAMES slumps.

JAMES

Oh wow! Are you just here studying then or...?

MICHELLE

Yeah I'm just studying for the year! But I love England and want to stay.

JAMES smiles and tilts his head.

MICHELLE smiles and catches herself.

FIVE

Not in Tinder World. Spotlight on CHRISSEY.

CHRISSEY

Let's see so, I already knew a little bit about him because Hannah had already gone on a date with him. All I knew was that he lasted thirty seconds in sex. But! Hannah also told me that he might be my soulmate.

So like I went into it thinking well maybe I can prolong the thirty second thing um...but I'm not, I'm not sleeping with him on the first date. Like I knew that, I knew that right out.

(CONTINUED)

Anyway- so I met him and like...he's nice but he's a little- Take. Charge. A little domineering. So we went to this place. The Crypts. He. Starts chatting- and he seems kinda cool - like I couldn't hear him that well, but he's drinking.... Like a fish.

And. We had this rotate payment. And then here's the thing. Here's the problem with that. He's also interweaving how much he made. I'm like bitch please Imma student.

But I still have this thing in the back of my mind that... even though he's being a little mmmmm... he may be my soulmate.

And then...later in the night he sort, sort of is when he became kind of conservative and kind of crazy... um...and we started talking about...something with politics... and he goes, 'In America, I would have voted for Romney.' And I was like, 'Oh. Shit.'

And he's like. 'Financially, I mean, come on, we can't just keep throwing money at poor people... and what it's boiled down to is we're either going to have to keep throwing money at the poor people or let them kind of go off on their own and sink or swim.' And s-uh-I-s-ah-was-ah like, 'Well, what about the children?' And he said, 'Yeah that's the hard part.'

Err...And I'm just like. 'Holy. Fuck. What am I doing?' And then he goes straight into stocks. He goes, 'I have stocks in Apple and JP Morgan. So I'm doing very well.'

Meanwhile, we're rotating the drinks.

And I'm just like...mmeerrrh...And he sees and's like 'Um. I don't kind of see this going anywhere. I kind of just want sex.' And I'm like 'Alright. I'm going'.

And that's when I called you.

SIX

In Tinder World. Lights up on ABI and MICHELLE, standing.

ABI

I'm ABI from Dubai, 29 years old.

MICHELLE

Oh cool! I'm 24, from Australia.

ABI smiles.

(CONTINUED)

ABI

I like making friends with people to share our experiences

ABI

Can I have your number and meet later to know each other?

MICHELLE pauses.

MICHELLE

Awesome! Do you enjoy your course?

ABI

I'm new in this app

ABI

It's too hard for us because its my second language

ABI

I hate study actually, I like travel and discover the world

MICHELLE

Yeah! That's awesome. Why England?

ABI presses his hand against the front of the box.

ABI

No reasons for choosing England its my destiny

ABI

I would like to invite you to dinner if you have time to know each other

ABI

Is that too forward?

SEVEN

Not in Tinder World. Spotlight on JAMES.

JAMES

I'm a single man looking to meet women on Tinder, and I don't just swipe right often, I swipe right always. What's more, I'm usually doing something else while swiping right... watching tv, talking to you... and not even looking at my phone as I do it. It's what men are encouraged to do by how Tinder works and how women use it.

Anything else would be a waste of our time.

EIGHT

In Tinder World. Lights up on each box. All standing.

MICHELLE

Ok so I know I probably shouldn't ask cos I said I was only on tinder for research...but would you want to meet up for coffee or a drink sometime??

JAMES self high-five's.

JAMES

Yes :) :)

MICHELLE jumps for joy.

JAMES

If easier I have whatsapp...07898273922

ABI

Is that you're natural hair colour /by the way?

CHRISSEY

Hey, how was/ your day?

ABI

Yeah really/ good thanks.

MICHELLE pauses. She considers and is about to reply to JAMES when...

JAMES

Did you watch the rugby? What a game!

Silence.

JAMES

I'll stop annoying you now but if you fancy getting together you have my number, let me know. could be fun :)

MICHELLE'S smile darkens.

JAMES hits the box.

ABI sits.

CHRISSEY lies down.

CHRISSEY

It's just shopping for sex!

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

Hey! I was thinking I might've got a text from you by now, but obviously something went wrong somewhere.

Scared you off?

Pause.

MICHELLE

Yes.

JAMES slumps to sit.

JAMES

My bad, what did I do? you seemed chatty and then it just stopped.

JAMES

And also, sorry. I know I went a bit OTT, I wanted to play it cool but I have been having a slightly bad last week or two and wanted something to look forward to.

JAMES

Anyway Michelle. Perhaps we could continue from where we left off, / sometime tomorrow?

CHRISSEY

Goodnight

ABI

It's beaut

Silence.

Michelle's box blacks out.

CHRISSEY

??

JAMES

Hey!

ABI

Hey!

JAMES

Hey?

ABI

Hey

JAMES

Boo Michelle

CHRISSEY

Hi there x

ABI

Hey

JAMES

Hey

MICHELLE's box's light turns on.

MICHELLE

Hey

Pause.

JAMES

Ow wow hello! I thought you were gone forever

MICHELLE

Just deleted tinder for a bit

JAMES

Oh so you're back for good?

Silence.

Blackout.