



Tinderella

📅 October 25, 2016 👤 Jon Robson (http://www.mashstories.com/author/jon_robson/) 💬 0 Comments (<http://www.mashstories.com/shortlist/tinderella/#respond>)

The woman I met on Tinder emerges at the bathroom door. She's makeup-less and draped in an angel-white bathrobe (<http://mashstories.com/tag/bathrobe/>). I think she looks prettier without makeup, but she doesn't agree. She's smart, funny and cheerful. Everything my ex-girlfriend was not.

"Any plans tomorrow?" she asks, her toothbrush muffling the words as it pirouettes inside her foamy mouth.

"I don't mind," I reply, wriggling underneath her Goose Down duvet.

"There's a new Italian restaurant we should try."

I am a hamburger and potato (<http://mashstories.com/tag/potato/>) fries guy, but she likes fancy restaurants.

Our nights together are proving predictable. A check-in on Facebook; a small chicken (<http://mashstories.com/tag/chicken/>) Caesar salad; and a photo published to Instagram for dozens of likes. As a musician, I'd prefer to stay in bed with her and talk life and music, long into the night, but that's not her.

Disrobed, her oversized t-shirt – of a boyband I detest – meets her knees. She slides under the covers with me.

"I love how we like the same things," she says, pulling aside my bang to kiss my forehead. "I won the Tinder lottery, didn't I? It's like a fairytale."

She settles her head on my chest. I stroke her hair. In the warmth, I'm reminded how cold it is to lie alone.

I stare up at the monotonous cream-colored ceiling, replaying the evening events. Two weeks ago, I was single, sex-starved and bored.

"It's nice being with someone after so long," I say to her, bewitched, her hair glistening between my fingers. "You're different from the usual women I date. Maybe that's where I've been going wrong."

She laughs. I lower my head. She's gazing at her iPhone.

"Can you believe this?" she asks thrusting the phone towards my face. "LOL!"

The Twitter account she shows me is a verified account of a Mom, actress, and author. I don't know who she is.

"She's from that reality television show. Remember?"

I shrug and smile.

"She's *hilarious*," she says stressing the adjective. "What were you saying?"

"It doesn't matter," I say, clearing my throat. "It wasn't important."

I stare back at the ceiling. I envision myself in shopping malls; holding handbags; watching reality television.

Engrossed in her phone, she swipes through Facebook photos in the same way we swiped ourselves together a week ago. I look at the clock. Midnight is approaching.

"This video is taking *forever* to load," she moans. "Do you use Snapchat?"

I catch a glimpse of a video of someone's cat, but before I can inspect more closely, it disappears.

"It's SUPER addictive. You share photos and videos with friends, which can only be viewed by them once."

"Ephemeral," I say.

"What?"

"Never mind."

I gaze upwards.

"What do you want to do next weekend?" she asks. "Napa Valley?"

"It's almost midnight, Cinderella," I yawn. "Let's just enjoy this moment."

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About Jon Robson

Jon Robson is a British expat living in San Francisco. He is currently working on a wide range of short stories covering a wide array of topics including shape shifting rabbits, apocalypses and aviophobia.



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