

MOLESWORTH

Episode 1 - Online Dating

written by

Julian Breheny

V3.2
0413 279 083
JulianBreheny@gmail.com

CHARACTERS

CHRIS

Non-conforming, unless conforming makes sense. The kind of moderate hipster who wears ironic t-shirts, but still has some ambition (and a law degree he doesn't use).

STEPH

Smart, in an traditional way. Beautiful, in an alternative way. Black jeans, black coffee and black humour. Her talents are wasted at the bar, but then again, so is she.

XANDER

Passionate. Kooky. Entrepreneurial. Larger than life. Lives in the granny flat out back, but manages to interject himself frequently. Strong, but skewed, sense of justice.

JACK

Straight-laced. Logical. Uncool. Cheap. Works in an office moving numbers between columns. The harder he tries the less things seem to work out for him, much to the amusement of his best friend, Chris.

JANE

Beautiful. Easy going. Spoiled. Smart enough to be acing med school without trying. Dumb enough to lose her car every time she parks. Chris' more successful sister. She splits time between the share house and her parent's Toorak mansion.

All are in there late 20's, and live together at 64 Molesworth st. Sometimes they're planning for the future, but mostly they're just enjoying what Melbourne has to offer.

INT. MOLESWORTH LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CHRIS and STEPH sit in the living room, silently on their phones. XANDER is in the kitchen making a sandwich.

JACK bursts in the front door.

JACK
I'm doing it! I'm starting online dating.

CHRIS
Finally!

STEPH
Which one? Tinder? Bumble? Happen?

JACK
All of them! Wait, they're free right?

STEPH
Yes.

JACK
Then all of them! What do they do?

STEPH
Tinder is the standard hook up one. Bumble is where girls talk fist. And Happn matches you with people you walk passed in the street.

JACK
That seems creepy.

STEPH
Some girls think it's more organic.

JACK
I'll do it then!

CHRIS
Don't get too excited. It's trench warfare out there.

STEPH
Chris is right. Dating apps are kind of a nightmare.

CHRIS
Unless you're a girl. Then it's easier. Like... drone warfare.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

The machine does most of the work
while you sit at home.

JACK heads to his room to change.

STEPH

Are you actually suggesting dating
apps are worse for men?

CHRIS

The numbers are stacked against us.
We swipe endlessly and when we
finally get a match, they don't
respond!

STEPH

'Boo Hoo I can't get a match'. You
probably write cheesy pick up lines
and then cry when women don't throw
their nudes at you.

CHRIS

What should I write?

STEPH

Just say 'Hi, how are you?'

CHRIS

Are you joking!? That's amateur
hour.

XANDER comes in with his sandwich

XANDER

You guys need to stop complaining.
Online dating is a cakewalk, if you
know what to do.

STEPH

No way, dating apps are just easier
for gay guys.

CHRIS

It's like shooting fish in a
barrel. Except the barrel is also
fish.

STEPH

Also, you are a fish. Not to
mention, there are lots of other
fish, in the sea.

XANDER
You think the whole community are
sex crazed maniacs just because
we're all gay?

STEPH
Of course not. It's because you're
all men.

CHRIS
Do you know what the biggest
obstacle is between me and having
sex?

XANDER
Your personality?

CHRIS
The woman... Now if only there were
a place where you could have sex
without any women...

XANDER
Grindr is not as easy as you all
think!

STEPH
You just said online dating was a
cake walk.

XANDER
Yes, but that's because I am
exceptionally gifted. Not because
Grindr is easy.

CHRIS
Literally anyone could get laid on
Grindr. In fact, twenty dollars
says even if you custom design the
worst profile possible, you'll
still get action.

XANDER jumps up from the chair.

XANDER
Ok, you're on. But first I need a
terrible photo.

XANDER runs to the bedroom.

STEPH
You know, that's not a bad idea.

CHRIS
Us going on Grindr?

STEPH
No. A test. To see if Tinder is
harder for men or women.

CHRIS
Go on.

STEPH
We switch logins. I control yours
and you control mine.

CHRIS
So if you can find me a date on my
profile, that means online dating
isn't hard for men... I just suck.

STEPH
Exactly.

CHRIS
You know it'll take me two seconds
to get you a date.

STEPH
It needs to be a decent guy. That
mean no dick pics. No 2 am booty
calls. And no calling me a stuck up
bitch cause I didn't reply within 9
minutes.

CHRIS
Easy. We've got until Saturday
night. Deal?

STEPH
Deal

They shake on it. XANDER comes out of the bedroom. He's wearing a fedora with a feather in it and a stained oversized t-shirt that says 'pussy slayer' on it.

He comes out of his room reading his phone as he sits down at the couch.

XANDER
'Just a nice guy, living with my
best friends, my parents. Looking
for someone who can do laundry
better than my mum...'
(to Chris)
I'll take my \$20 now

CHRIS

Hold on.

Ding. XANDER's phone goes off. CHRIS grabs it.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(reading the message)

Sounds fun? Why don't I come over
and we give your mother some dirty
sheets to wash.

XANDER

(shocked)

WHAT!?! No.

XANDER grabs the phone and reads over it.

XANDER (CONT'D)

How can this be? Who would fuck the
guy in that profile?

STEPH

Where did you get the clothes?

XANDER

They were left here by a guy I
hooked up with on Grindr...

Beat. XANDER has a crushing realisation that maybe he isn't
good at dating apps.

He changes his mind again.

XANDER (CONT'D)

No. I'm good at dating apps! Quick,
give me one of your phones, I'll
get you a date.

STEPH

Nooooo. We've got our own thing
going on. Ask Jack.

XANDER

Does he need help?

JACK comes out in a fedora.

JACK

OK. The Happen account is done.
Should I mention that I'm a nice
guy, or do you think the photo with
my mum will be enough?

XANDER
You need my help. I swear I'm the
dating app master!

JACK looks at CHRIS and STEPH. They shake their heads.

JACK
I think I'll just try it by myself
first.

XANDER
Ok! Fine!

XANDER goes to leave the apartment.

CHRIS
Where are you going?

XANDER
(looking at phone)
...To my mum's house.

As XANDER is closing the door.

CHRIS
You owe me twenty bucks!

XANDER leaves.

INT. JACK'S OFFICE AND OTHER LOCATIONS - DAY

JACK sits at his office desk. He looks around to see if
anyone is watching, then pulls out his phone.

He opens up Tinder. No matches.

He opens up Bumble. No matches.

He opens up Happn. No matches.

He starts swiping and swiping away.

He's on the train swiping.

He's on the tram swiping.

He's buying a donut swiping.

He's walking aimlessly though the city swiping.

He's walking though parks swiping.

He's walking through the University swiping.

He's walking through shops swiping.

Day turns to night.

INT. MOLESWORTH LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CHRIS is sitting in the same place on the couch, watching TV. JACK walks in, still swiping. He sits on the couch, holding the donut bag he bought earlier. He checks his phone.

Tinder. No matches.

Bumble. No matches.

Happn. No matches.

JACK takes his shoes off, revealing filthy and bloodied feet.

CHRIS leans over and sees JACK's phone on the Happn screen.

CHRIS

Hold on a second...Have you just been walking the streets trying to cheat Happn by crossing paths with as many women as you can.

Beat.

JACK

Ok Fine! I was! But I think there's something wrong with my apps. I've got no matches!

CHRIS

Nope. That's just trench warfare. It's muddy, and you don't make any ground.

JACK

And this is what it's like for everybody?

CHRIS

No. Just the guys. Let me see your phone.

CHRIS flicks through JACK's phone.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

You know you're supposed to use attractive photos right?

JACK
I don't have any!

CHRIS
You're paying for premium on
Tinder, Happn and Bumble?

JACK
So?

CHRIS
You're the cheapest guy I know. You
buy your toiler paper on groupon.
Now you're paying \$100 a month to
get a date.

JACK
Everything anyone buys is,
peripherally, to get laid. Shirts,
clothes, gym, even food. At least
this is a direct investment.

CHRIS
And how is it working out for you?

JACK
No matches.

CHRIS
Check out Steph's Tinder.

CHRIS pulls out his phone.

JACK
What are all of those circle
things?

CHRIS
...Those are matches.

JACK
What?! She has like 30!

CHRIS
I know. I just need to find one
that won't send a dick pic.

JACK
How do these guys get matches. What
am I doing wrong?

CHRIS
I'm sorry I don't have the time you
require to fix your profile. I need
to vet these guys before Saturday.

JACK gets a text from an unknown number. It says. 'Need help
with online dating, you need the TINDER WHISPERER.'

JACK
What the hell?

CHRIS
Oh look, Steve the lawyer is
writing back. This is going to be
too easy.

JACK starts texting the TINDER WHISPERER back. 'Let's meet'.

EXT. STREET - DAY

JACK walks up an alleyway, all the while checking an address
on his phone.

There's a door marked, 'The Tinder Whisperer'. He knocks and
it swings open.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

JACK walks through a dingy hallway, he sees scary looking
props: Realistic dog heads, baby dolls, ropes.

Finally he gets to the end of a hallway and sees a green
screen and a photographer wearing a mask.

PHOTOGRAPHER
What do you seek?

JACK
Ummm... Matches.

PHOTOGRAPHER
And what do matches require?

JACK
Ummm...Inner peace?

PHOTOGRAPHER
Photos! On the app, you are your
photos. No more. No Less.

JACK
OK...

PHOTOGRAPHER

Disrobe.

Beat.

JACK is worried.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - DAY

STEPH is looking through some old photo albums while JANE studies under a pile of books at the desk near by.

STEPH

Where do your parents keep the photos of your family's trip to Mexico?

JANE

Oh. They're in that folder third from the right.

STEPH flips open the photo album and the Mexico photos are right there.

STEPH

Yes, these are perfect! The ones Chris has on Tinder now are terrible.

JANE

That's cause my brother is gross.

STEPH

He's not gross! He just needs to use more organic photos. Like this.

STEPH passes the photo to Jane.

JANE

I dunno, he's pulling kind of a weird face here, and has a bit of a belly.

STEPH

But it's real! It's such a turn off when guys curate their images.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

JACK is completely made up in front of the green screen as a masked photographer takes snap after snap.

JACK uses the props to hit all the cliches. Holding a dog, holding a baby, in a suit, on top of a mountain, sky diving, with other women etc.

JACK is intimidated by all of this, but the enthusiasm of the photographer keeps him going.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - DAY

STEPH

Now all his photos are done, and he looks like an actual human.

JANE

So how many matches does he have?

STEPH

None... yet. He told me to be extra picky.

STEPH swipes right 50 times quickly. Clearly showing no care to which girls she swipes.

STEPH (CONT'D)

Now, we wait.

JANE leans over and sees the Tinder app.

JANE

Tinder? Isn't that the food app?

STEPH

No, that's Uber Eats...

JANE

No, it's Tinder. I do really well at it too. Check out my profile.

JANE hands STEPH her phone.

STEPH

'I'm looking for a Chicken Kebab with olives and feta cheese. No Lettuce.'

JANE

Then you just go through and swipe right on all the delivery guys, and then one of them brings you food.

STEPH

Ok... So how do you PAY for that food.

JANE
Pay!? No, I'm not going to be one
of those losers who buys the
premium version.

STEPH
So you think they just match with
you, find out your address, and
then bring you food.

JANE
Well yeah. How else would it work?

STEPH
I don't know how I can explain this
to you -

DOOR BELL

JANE
Foods here!

JANE runs to the door.

JANE (CONT'D)
(O.C)
Oh thanks so much! You're a
sweetie. Oh no, you don't need to
come in. Thanks. Byeeee

RANDOM GUY
But, I thought -

JANE slams the door and walks back into the main room,
holding a kebab.

JANE
Not bad huh?

STEPH
It's definitely better than what
most guys send.

INT. MOLESWORTH LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Chris sits in the living room looking at his phone. He hasn't
moved since earlier in the day. He now has Uber Eats
containers all around him, and is wearing the same clothes.

He recoils.

CHRIS
Oh God! Another dick pic!

JACK walks in.

JACK

What's going on? I can hear you from down the street.

CHRIS

It's a nightmare. Everywhere I turn... penises.

JACK

What, even from the finalist?

CHRIS

Steve? He's actually ok. But the 30 other matches keep turning normal conversation into a penis bazaar.

JACK

And Steph is matching these guys?

CHRIS

They seem normal at first. Then they turn into creeps. I just don't understand the concept of the unsolicited dick pic.

JACK

It does seem like a bold move.

CHRIS

Why do it, if it clearly never works?

JACK

So you'd be OK with it, if they worked?

CHRIS

It would never be ok. But at least I could understand their motivation. But to just keep sending dick pics into the void, knowing they have no history of working. It's just madness.

JACK

Well, lets presume that no logical person would keep sending dick pics if they didn't work.

CHRIS

But people are clearly still sending them...

JACK

Then there must be a pocket of
society, responding positively?

CHRIS

But all women say they hate them?
Are they lying?

JACK

Well... wouldn't you?

CHRIS

...Have you ever sent one?

JACK

No!

Beat.

Text message tone. Chris checks it.

CHRIS

Another one!

JACK

What about your wonderboy, Steve?

CHRIS

Let me check. Oh, he's sent like 6
messages, I must have missed them.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(reading)

"I love rock climbing, let's go
sometime!" ... "We can do something
else"... "Hey I'm trying to be nice
here, you could at least reply"...
"You're a stuck up bitch"... "I
hope you die!"

Chris throws the phone down.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Come on Steve!

JACK

Why do you pick these guys?

CHRIS

They have good photos. Look at
Steve's. They're perfectly curated.

JACK

Oh, I've done that too. I met a guy
who took a bunch of photos for me.

JACK starts showing the photos to CHRIS. We see the actual
photos, they look realistic, but we know they were all green
screen.

CHRIS

So these were taken by a random
guy?

JACK

Not totally random. He's... the
Tinder Whisperer.

INT. STEPH'S BAR - DAY

STEPH is working behind the bar, but it is pretty much empty.
Again JANE is studying under a pile of books.

STEPH looks at her phone, shocked.

STEPH

No matches!!! I don't understand.
I've swiped about 100 girls and
none of them have swiped back on
Chris.

JANE

So...

STEPH

It doesn't make sense. He's more
attractive than most of the girls
I'm swiping on. Why are girls so
picky?

JANE

It might be the photos you used.

STEPH

The other one's didn't show the
real him. Just a fake version.

JANE

But everyone else puts a fake
version up. You've got Chris in the
tour de France, and he's the only
one not steroids.

STEPH
 Fine, I'll switch it back to the
 other photos and see how we go.

DOOR BELL

JANE runs over to grab it

JANE
 Oh thanks so much! You're a life
 saver. Oh no, you don't need to
 come in. Cheers!

JANE comes back out, now with a box of highlighters. STEPH's
 phone dings.

STEPH
 I've got a match!

JANE
 The photos worked.

STEPH
 People are so superficial... Wow,
 this chick's hot.

JANE
 What are you gonna say?

STEPH
 Unlike every guy out there, I'm not
 going to slam her with some obvious
 pick up line, or bullshit joke I
 found on reddit.

JANE
 Something simple?

STEPH
 (typing)
 "Hi How are you?"

EXT. PARK - DAY

JACK is standing under a waterfall, holding his phone, as the
 masked TINDER WHISPERER gives commands.

TINDER WHISPERER
 You must swipe without looking to
 find love without seeing.

JACK
 What if I get some hideous swamp
 monster.

TINDER WHISPERER
 You said a match, is all you seek.

JACK
 True...

TINDER WHISPERER
 Plus, you can always ghost her if
 she's gross.

The TINDER WHISPERER passes JACK his phone.

TINDER WHISPERER (CONT'D)
 Now, swipe! Without looking.

JACK swipes right, while maintaining his gaze with the TINDER
 WHISPERER.

TINDER WHISPERER (CONT'D)
 Again! Again! Again!

JACK swipes definitively. The TINDER WHISPERER stifles a
 chuckle.

TINDER WHISPERER (CONT'D)
 Faster, Faster, Faster!

JACK swipes again and again, and naturally decides to go into
 the karate kid pose as he does it.

JACK
 Yes sensei.

TINDER WHISPERER bursts out laughing. JACK is surprised and
 insulted. Then he starts to recognise the voice.

JACK (CONT'D)
 Xander?

JACK rips the mask off and reveals XANDER.

JACK (CONT'D)
 You son of a bitch.

XANDER
 You needed my help!

JACK starts to grab his stuff and walk away.

XANDER (CONT'D)
But it's working! You needed to
swipe like crazy to get any
traction.

JACK
Why am I under a waterfall then!

XANDER
Ok, that part was for just for me.

JACK
I'm leaving.

JACK's phone buzzes. He looks down.

JACK (CONT'D)
I've GOT A MATCH!!!!

JACK and XANDER embrace.

JACK (CONT'D)
Yes. Finally!!! I never should have
doubted you. God I hope she's hot!

JACK goes to check her profile.

XANDER
Stop!

JACK
Why?

XANDER
I know all that waterfall stuff was
too much, but I'm serious, don't
look at her photos.

JACK
Why not?

XANDER
I know you. You'll get all in you
own head and mess it up.

JACK
So what do I do.

XANDER
Stage 2...

INT. STEPH'S BAR - DAY

STEPH is now sitting on the same side of the booth as JANE, in the empty bar. She's tapping her fingers impatiently.

STEPH
Should I send another message?

JANE
You've already sent five.

STEPH
Why won't she just reply! She's not even that hot.

JANE
She's not bad.

STEPH
Don't you think it's rude! We have a nice little chat at first, and then suddenly she disappears.

JANE
Why don't you ask a question? Isn't that what Chris does.

STEPH
They're too forceful. That question mark just glaring at you, saying you NEED to respond.

JANE
Fine don't send a question.

STEPH
Too late. I already sent one an hour ago.

JANE
Hypocrite!

STEPH
I buckled! I couldn't wait anymore.

JANE
What did she say?

STEPH
Nothing! And it was a thoughtful question too. I'm interesting dammit!

STEPH starts typing.

JANE

What are you saying?

STEPH

Nothing bad, just that she's acting rude.

JANE

I think you may be getting a little 'nice-guy' ish.

STEPH

What do you mean?

JANE

Read me the message you're writing.

STEPH

(reading)

You're acting very rude. Most guys just send dick pics and cheesy lines, but I was different. And now you're missing out on someone who could actually treat you well because you're too...

JANE

Stuck up...?

STEPH

Oh my God. What have I become?

INT. XANDER'S GRANNY FLAT - DAY

XANDER and JACK are sitting in his granny flat, outside the main house.

JACK

How about 'Hi? How are you?'

XANDER

Girls get 50 of those messages a day. You need to stand out!

JACK

What if she sends the first message?

XANDER

Hahaha... Oh, poor young Jack.

JACK

It could happen!

XANDER
 Why on earth would she message you!
 She's got 100 guys-

DING

JACK gets a message.

JACK
 Hah! She sent me a message.

XANDER
 This is unprecedented.

JACK
 Ok. I'm writing back. Tell me what
 to do!

XANDER
 Just mirror what she does. If she
 writes a short message, you write a
 short response. She finishes with a
 question, you finish with a
 question.

JACK
 What if she is already talking
 about getting food.

XANDER
 Then agree with her! What's wrong
 with you.

JACK
 Ok ok. I've sent it.

INT. STEPH'S BAR - NIGHT

STEPH is sitting in a booth of the bar. CHRIS walks in and
 sits down.

CHRIS
 I did it! I got you a date.

STEPH
 You sound surprised. Was it harder
 than you thought?

CHRIS
 No. Online dating is definitely
 easier for women.

STEPH
Are you kidding me! Men are so hard
to read, plus all the dick pics
they send.

CHRIS
You're saying men don't communicate
directly, but also that we send
dick pics

STEPH
So...

CHRIS
A dick pic is the most direct form
of communication there is. There is
no misreading that. Not that it
matters, because I didn't get any.

STEPH
No dick pics? Slut shaming? Random
aggression?

CHRIS
No...

STEPH
You will sit there. And swear to
me. In this sacred place -

CHRIS
- It's a bar.

STEPH
That you have not seen a single
random penis this last week.

Beat.

CHRIS
So, did you get me a date then?

STEPH
Yes I did!

CHRIS
You didn't struggle to get matches.

STEPH
Believe it or not, when you treat
women with respect, you get
positive responses.

CHRIS

So no women drove you crazy with their unrelenting rejection.

Beat.

STEPH

What's important is that I got you a date. And she's meant to be arriving right now.

CHRIS

I'm impressed.

STEPH

Well don't be. Cause it was easy.

STEPH's phone goes off and she reads the message.

STEPH (CONT'D)

She canceled...

CHRIS

Oh well. It happens.

STEPH

(angry)

That stuck up bitch! Who does she think she is. I was good to her. Most guys just send dick pics and -

CHRIS

Ah ha! I knew it! You got rejected and ignored time and time again, and it drove you crazy!

STEPH

Hold on! Just because it sucked for me, doesn't mean you didn't struggle.

CHRIS

Your date, who will be arriving any minute now, is perfect. His name is Greg. He's an adventurous doctor. And he has a beautiful husky.

CHRIS shows his phone to Steph.

STEPH

Well. He actually looks ok.

JANE comes in.

JANE
I just saw the cutest guy outside,
with this amazing husky.

CHRIS
Ah ha! Victory.

JANE
He did show me his penis though...

A man outside, seen through the window, is getting arrested
with his pants down.

JANE heads off to the bar to get a drink.

STEPH
I knew it! Men are pigs. Admit it!

CHRIS
Fine. Men are pigs. It was
terrible. How do you deal with the
penises.

STEPH
It's a daily struggle.

CHRIS
I mean. Has anyone ever fallen for
a dick pic.

STEPH
Never.

CHRIS
But men still send them. They must
be working on some people.

STEPH
I don't see how they could.

CHRIS
But no one would admit it?

STEPH
No. I guess they wouldn't...

Beat.

XANDER emerges from the bathroom, with two attractive men
next to him. They are cuddly/cute together. The men say
goodbye and walk off.

XANDER

OK. I admit it. Grindr is very very easy.

STEPH

This is not news to us.

XANDER

BUT! I am still the dating app king. Dare I say... The... 'Tinder Whisperer'

XANDER holds up the mask.

CHRIS

You're the whisperer!

STEPH

The who?

CHRIS

Jack has been getting crazy dating advice from some guy who makes him swipe under waterfalls or something

XANDER

Crazy advice? Then how come Jack has a date tonight.

CHRIS

Nooo...

STEPH

With HIS profile? You might be the Tinder Whisperer after all.

JACK walks in. Dressed up like an accountant on casual Friday. He's also holding some plastic bags.

JACK

I got a date!

XANDER

You're welcome. I'm just glad I proved that my methods work for all, even those cursed with heterosexuality.

CHRIS and STEPH applaud. JACK goes to take a bow but XANDER beats him to it.

STEPH

Wait. So what's in the bags?

JANE walks back from the bar holding a drink.

JACK

Oh. The girl I matched with said she wanted me to bring her some kebabs with olives?

JANE

Oh that's for me! I had no idea you were driving for Tinder now.

JANE grabs the food off of him.

JANE (CONT'D)

I didn't recognize you in your photo because of the baby you were holding.

JACK

Wait... You're the girl I'm going on a date with.

JANE

Date? No, I just needed a kebab.

CHRIS

So Xander didn't make Jack more dateable. He turned him into a delivery driver.

STEPH

Maybe you should just stick to Grindr...

XANDER

I think I will. Hetero dating apps seem like a complete nightmare. Do any of you get anything out of them.

JACK

No

CHRIS

No

STEPH

No

JANE

I got a kebab.

CHRIS

Lets just delete them then.

STEPH

Agreed!

They all pull out their phones and open up Tinder.

Chris looks down at his phone, and sees Steph's profile has popped up. He smiles and swipes right.

Steph sees Chris' profile on her phone. Her thumb dances indecisively an inch above the screen. Then she swipes right.

It's a match. Steph and Chris smile at each other.