## I only date millionaires By Ina Disguise

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Pippa looked out of the austere office window, designed to limit the amount of time one would spend gazing at the view, and decided that this job was not for her. She had only been there a week. She texted her agency and told them that she would not be wasting any more time as a typist in an office with no work to do, and packed up her bag to go.

The other temps looked at her in astonishment. How could she leave? This was a plum job, plenty of pay and no work whatsoever. Pippa, however, had been temping for sufficient time to know that these jobs were often created to protect budgets for the following year, and it was not something her Presbyterian ancestry would tolerate. She simply couldn't stand waste. She got into her car and, after dropping the garden waste she had been carrying off at the recycling centre, did the weekly shopping and went home.

Arriving finally at her computer, Pippa wondered what she would do for the next week or two, until the next temporary job started. She looked at the free dating sites, and wondered whether she ought to try something entirely new. Personal ads, whilst entertaining, were not really her style. Still, she thought, if this was what she was reduced to, she could always aim high.

It only took a few minutes to word her advertisement. Lady, 29 seeks significant other etc etc. She worked on it until it was perfect. An exchange of impecunious classy youth for monied company. Now she had created a charming and rather classy young lady, seeking her other half for glamorous nights out. A standard exchange.

"I suppose I had better actually brush my hair." Pippa looked at her raggedy gardening nails and unplucked eyebrows and spent the afternoon emulating her advertisement. Pippa was simply not interested in her appearance. She was strangely disconnected from the physical, although fascinated by the social. She scrubbed up reasonably well after a couple of hours of relatively boring work. There wasn't much she could do about her weight, but she supposed that millionaires were sometimes ugly too, so she wasn't that worried.

It took only a few hours for the first answers to come in. An oil company director, working in Dubai. This seemed like a bit of a commute. No. A lawyer, working down the coast. He would do. She wrote a reply and was surprised when his instant response was a fifteen line poem, in florid and beautifully constructed verse. Gosh, she thought, this one must have a soul. This could take some time. She replied and moved onto the next one. Ewww, company director of the largest logistics company in Europe, recently divorced. OK. She replied.

She did not imagine that the reply would be fast, so she reviewed another couple. An inherited millionaire wanted to take her to the casino. That would be interesting, she thought, so she made a rather vague arrangement to see him the following week. At this point she decided that it might be a good idea to see her friends, since any potential dates would not be that evening.

"Since when did you care this much about money?" Robert scoffed as they downed their first pint of cider in the grubby pub they frequented.

"It wasn't really about the money. I just wanted to see if I could do it. Socially."

"What's social about you? You are crazy. What rich guy is going to want you?" Evidently Robert did not have a high opinion of her, Pippa thought.

"Suck it and see, Robert. Why would money make any difference? I was operating on the principle that I might as well date a rich guy as a poor one. Would you like another pint?" Pippa swallowed the rest of the alcohol and went to the bar, strangely hurt.

"You're delusional. I don't want to get sucked into your madness. Stupid bitch." Robert accepted the pint that Pippa had brought. Pippa frowned.

"I think maybe we better change the subject, Robert. How is your brother?" Pippa was always at a loss at how her friends spoke to her. Why would she have to pay for the company of sad little men? She was a bit tired of the whole principle of dragging depressed assholes through life. "I'm a bit fed up with your poor self image crap, by the way. What's to stop you doing the same thing?"

"Ha ha, what rich bitch is going to want me?"

"You might be surprised. You never know until you try." Pippa stared at Robert, exasperated. She was there, apparently, to be dragged into his emotional cesspit.

"Can you imagine me on the arm of some old cow?"

"Why would it have to be an old cow? What about a nice girl that likes owls and historic weapons, or whatever?"

"Nah, you're insane." Robert shook his head and licked his yellow teeth. "Not going to happen."

"Ok then." Pippa sat back. "It's your round. I'll have a gin and tonic this time."

Later that evening, Robert managed to incite an attack from one of the obscure group of men that gradually joined them by discussing his sardonic love of Stalin. Rather than explain Robert's emotional situation, Pippa simply floored the man using an old judo technique she had seen in a movie. The large plasterer was very surprised to find himself on his back, Pippa gazing down at him. He marvelled at her polite accent. "That is just not OK, Peter. You will just have to be a good poppet. Would you like a drink, dear?"

"Ah, right, yeah Pippa." Peter, along with the rest of the frequenters of the bar, had learned over the years that Pippa was terribly sweet, kind, and not to be messed with. "Lager, please."

"You want a shot with that?" The manager laughed as he picked Peter up from the floor. Pippa was very good for business, and saved him lots of problems with the boozers.

"She's mental." Lila, who had joined the company, whispered to Robert. "How do you put up with it?"

"She's not my girlfriend, she is just some fat cow that went out with my brother." Robert looked embarrassed. Lila had very nice tits and little brain. There was hope for him yet.

"Girls aren't supposed to do that. My mother would be horrified if I did that." Lila pursed her lips.

Aware that Pippa had just rescued him from a beating, Robert felt only a twinge of guilt as he said "Yeah, she's a nutjob, but she's good for a pint."

The following morning Pippa awoke as usual and mowed the lawns before breakfast. She was fortunate not to suffer from hangovers. Before working in the garden, she checked her mail.

This time the lawyer had sent her a twenty line poem. She frowned slightly at this, and thanked him, but noted that he had told her nothing at all about himself. She wondered what this was all about? She firmed up her casino date, and arranged to meet the company director the following day.

New mail had come in. A semi-celebrity martial artist, and a wealthy hairdresser. Given that she made arty carpets, she was particularly interested in a carpet millionaire with a local factory. She replied to all of them. Another oil guy. She decided not to bother with him. He was bound to be away a lot, and she did not think that would make for a great relationship.

Suitably cheered on, Pippa dug the garden and trimmed the hedges before remembering the inevitable scratches on her hands. Drat. Not much she could do about it now. She found some concealer and put it aside, along with a strange dress, for the following evening.

The Company Director was a surprisingly small but spry looking man, who wanted to take her out in the capital. She agreed to this, and drove her small scruffy car through the evening traffic and the forty miles. She was careful to conceal the car before she arrived at his door. He looked shocked, although he had seen her photograph.

"Gosh, there's so much of you to enjoy." He looked slightly intimidated. Pippa felt slightly miserable but bounced along regardless.

Over dinner, he delivered his killer line "I had lunch with William Hague, and now I'm having dinner with you."

"How nice, what did you have?" Pippa was becoming aware that money did not remove the self-esteem issues she was trying to escape. The company director was a bit too submissive, she thought. Not terribly surprised by the divorce, then.

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