



Diane:

Tinder, GetLez, PlentyoMinge... I'm going to try 'em all. This is SheDate. It's a particular woman I'm looking for.

She'll need to be fit and healthy, and own a dog or two. Rescues of course. Plenty of walking and hiking. Tennis player. Must be available on Wednesdays for club matches. Grows own veg. Vegetarian. For quiet nights in with a Linguaphone Course and the juicer. I'm learning Russian, so she can too.

Loneliness disguises itself, drips distance in your ear. "You'll be admired for rising through the ranks. Get brownie points for staying late." Admired. Not loved. And in reality not admired. Not even noticed. My friend Pat at work - well, my, my colleague Pat, at work - says "the job won't love you back, Diane". And she's been married three times.

Strong. Independent. Unique. Individual. Better than those part-timers. The best. The one and only. Solo. I was social distancing way before it became trendy. There is a comfort in loneliness. A buffer. I thank my loneliness now. It was there for me when nobody else was.

Would like to meet. And spend time with. Would take the time. Would build a future. Would make the memories.