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Younger men ...
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At first sight Sadie Frost, Patsy Kensit, Halle Berry and Elizabeth Taylor might not have a lot in common except for celebrity status.

But look at them in closer detail and you'll find they've all shackled up with men several years their junior.

However, it's not just the celebrities who look to younger men to spice up their romantic lives.

Government figures show that in 2004, one in every four brides was older than their groom.

It's a huge increase from the one in seven who got hitched to toyboys back in 1963.

And it's not just those walking down the aisle who are toying with the idea of a younger man. According to a recent survey by dating service Parship, an increasing number of ladies over the age of 45 are now on the lookout for a young'un to date.

Apparently 10%, which equates to some 280,000, are after a toyboy.

One expert attributes the trend to a kind of HRT replacement which reawakens an older women's libido, her vitality and her sexual energy.

In short, it makes her feel confident, sexy and youthful.

Our old view of romantic relationships is in a state of change, it seems.

Many, if not most, of these relationships between an older woman and a younger paramour are not going to last, based as they are on sex being the only common area of interest.

Which is a sound reason for anyone slightly envious to take note of the advice that relationships work best when there are similarities in age, education, values and family background.

If you are any more than 10 years older than your beau, there could be major differences of opinion about even the simple things like music.

You might even remember things that happened when they weren't even born.

And, of course, you also need to take into account emotional maturity.

So don't think these women are having it good.

They're probably suffering agonies inside, wondering how long it will last with their young boyfriend.

Take pity also on the balding 40-something man with high cholesterol and a dicky knee from Sunday football.

Winning the lottery tonight is probably the only sure way for them to attract a partner.

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