



There are some men who insist that having a relationship with a 'love doll' (rather than a real woman) is more than just sex...

# Meet the iDollators

**T**ucked away inside Dave's wallet is a photo of his wife, Sidore. With her big brown eyes and pouting lips, it's no wonder her besotted husband wants to carry her picture around with him.

But, the shocking truth is that she's a life-sized doll with silicone skin and simulated sex organs.

The bizarre couple have been 'married' for 10 years and Dave calls himself a 'doll-husband'.

"There's a multitude of people who'd consider a relationship with a doll as a taboo, deranged or just abnormal," says Dave, 37, a call centre worker.

"But as long as I'm not harming anyone, I don't see a problem. I've had relationships with real women, or 'organics' as I call them, in the past, but they've never worked out. At least Sidore will never reject me or break my heart."

Dave isn't the only man who's developed an emotional bond with an inanimate partner. He's one of a growing breed of doll-lovers, known as 'iDollators'.

While it may seem perverted, sick and creepy, Dave insists that

there is more to his union with Sidore than some sexual fantasy.

"The term sex doll is limiting," he says. "I prefer to call Sidore an 'artificial person'. Yes, the sex is fantastic, but we love spending time together. If I've had a bad day at work Sidore is a great sounding board. Obviously, she can't talk back, but sometimes I don't want to be asked lots of questions. I like peace and quiet without feeling guilty."

Experts believe there could be a psychological reason why iDollators choose dolls as partners. According to psychologist Dr Art Silva, their under-developed social skills could be the result of a mild form of Autism, Asperger's Syndrome. "If you're dealing with people that suffer from Asperger's, they'll have difficulty with socialisation," says Dr Silva.

Dave hasn't seen a doctor, but he agrees it could be likely. "There are lots of similarities between the symptoms and iDollators – like living a solitary lifestyle," he says. There's little else to explain Dave's obsession. Growing up, he had a normal upbringing by



his parents, who were property landlords in Detroit, USA. But, he still developed a fascination with inanimate women at age 10.

"I'd go to clothes shops with my mum and be amazed by the mannequins," reveals Dave. "When I hit puberty, my attraction became sexual. I loved the dolls' stillness and beauty."

During his early 20s, he had a couple of failed relationships – which cemented his desire to have a doll as a partner.

"I've only been involved with two affairs, which I always

thought was a bit indicative," says Dave. "It made me feel like I was fun to be around, but not long-term. I don't think people in general can be trusted."

So when, aged 26, Dave saw Sidore on a website selling life-sized dolls, he says it was 'love at first sight'.

"She was beautiful, with the perfect figure – 5ft 1in, 80lb, a 34D chest. At \$5000 she was expensive, but I was besotted," he says.

As soon as she was delivered to his apartment, they tied the knot. "I placed my mood ring on

