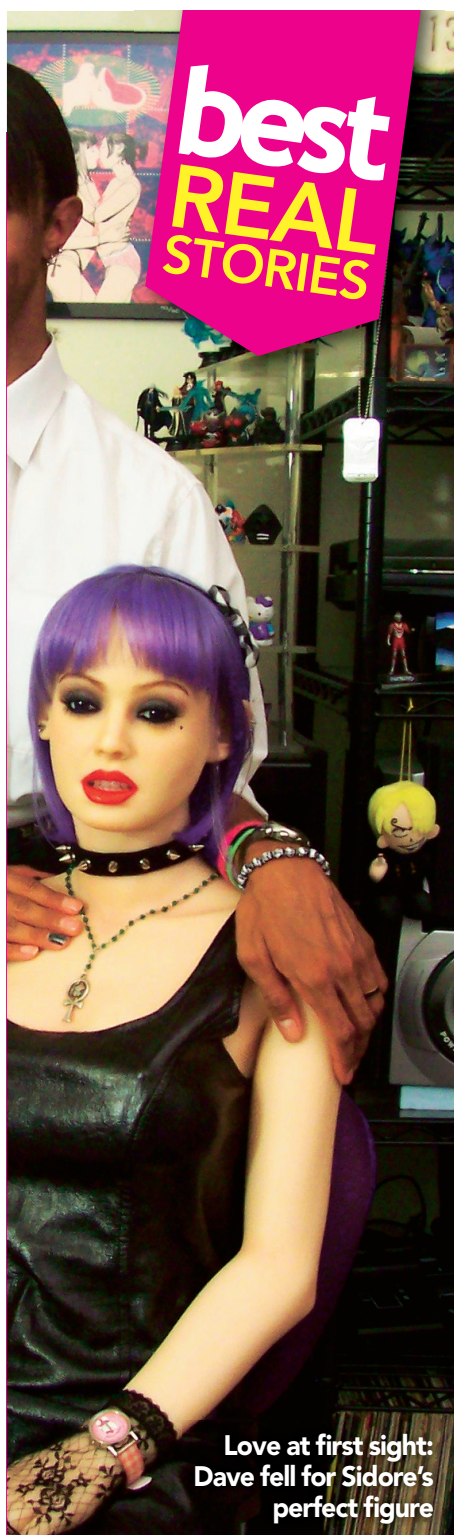


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Love at first sight:
Dave fell for Sidore's
perfect figure

iDollators – what the experts say...

“These so called iDollators show typical signs of an individual who has Asperger's Syndrome – a condition characterised by a difficulty in understanding the social dynamics between people,” says forensic psychologist Dr Vincent Egan. “For them, it's a means of expressing love without necessarily having to endure the painful part of it.

“Another explanation is that these individuals may have suffered some kind of trauma as a child – an absent mother for example. There are all sorts of peculiar ways people express detachment issues. Having a relationship with an inanimate person is an opportunity for them to be completely in control.

“Individuals who have been attached to a doll for a number of years will find it extremely difficult to form a relationship with a real person. They will not have any of the competences involved with understanding another person's emotional requirements. So, if someone were to become involved with them, they would definitely be taking a risk.”

her finger, gave her my favourite necklace and got a marriage certificate online,” he says.

A decade on and Dave hasn't had a relationship with a real woman since – even though he has to carry his 'wife' from room to room, wash her and dress her.

“Sidore offers a security that organic women can't,” says Dave. “My friends are accepting and so was my mum until she passed away, but my dad finds it difficult.”

Although Dave doesn't see any shame in his wife, he is aware that it is 'strange' and doesn't take

her out in public. “I would love to, but I know people would call me a freak,” he admits.

Now, Dave has all but ruled out a relationship with a real woman. In fact, he dreams of augmenting his synthetic wife with robotics.

“The only drawback to Sidore is that it's not reciprocal,” admits Dave. “My ideal partner would be a gynoid – a fully fledged walking, talking, artificial person. That's my dream.”

★ *Strangelove* is on National Geographic, Thursday 5 August, 9pm

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