



4

Is the Pill making you choose the wrong man?

ONE OF THEM IS HOT, BUFF... AND A PLAYER. The other is, how can we put this? More sensitive... So which of these *Bridesmaids* stars do you fancy – Jon Hamm (who plays the hunky Ted) or Chris O'Dowd (who plays the more reliable Officer Rhodes)? Now look again... do you really trust your judgement? According to a controversial new report released last week, if you're on the contraceptive pill, you might be picking the wrong man.

New research found women on the Pill are subconsciously more likely to go for a man they think will make a good dad, thanks to the altered levels of hormones in their body. That means they're more likely to avoid 'macho' men (sorry Jon) and instead opt for sensitive types. At the same time, they'll put up with an unsatisfactory sex life because they're content this man will provide for them long-term.

'The implications of our study seem to be that by changing your hormone profile through using the Pill, you may shift your preference away from "cads" in favour of "dads",' says Dr Craig Roberts, who questioned 2,500 women for the study.

One person who agrees with his findings is Kelly*. 'I stopped taking the Pill over a year ago and suddenly realised that my boyfriend was completely wrong for me,' she says. 'I quickly fell for someone else and now I couldn't be happier.'

In a controversial move, researchers last week advised women to come off the Pill before they get married to ensure they really do fancy their partner. But family planning experts warn against taking the study too seriously.

'Nearly all the women we see in our clinics go on the Pill a couple of months into their relationship,

by which point they're already attracted to their partner,' says Rebecca Findley from the Family Planning Association. 'As for women on the Pill enjoying sex less, you could argue that many people in long-term relationships go off sex simply because they've been with that person a long time. I'm not sure the Pill is to blame.'

There is a positive way of looking at the survey's findings, too: Pill users rate their partners as more sensitive, more supportive and better providers.

'Certainly don't ditch your pills overnight,' says Tracey Forsyth from the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. 'You should seek advice from your GP or local family planning service before stopping any method of contraception.' *Did you break up with your partner after coming off the Pill? Let us know at feedback@graziemagazine.co.uk*