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# Can an open relationship ever work?

Men, Sex & Love  
So, do you think monogamy is outdated and over-rated? Read this. These women have first-hand experience...



He'd squawed, big time

With recent reports stating that 35% of long-term relationships will be rocked by infidelity, is it any wonder so many couples are turning their backs on conventional partnerships? "It's hardly surprising. Previously taboo lifestyle choices are now becoming socially acceptable," says relationship expert Lisa Turner. But what's it really like to share your man?

## "Yes" says Lori Smith, 35

Of the 12 years I've been with Jon, 11 have been 'open'. It started when we admitted to each other we'd considered cheating. We talked it through and agreed that being attracted to other people didn't mean we didn't love each other. We also agreed on some rules. We're honest, we tell each other when we're spending the night with someone, and we meet each other's new partner. My longest relationship lasted a year, so it's important we get on with the third person. If either of us were unhappy with the other's choice, we'd break it off. Once, I panicked that a girl Jon was seeing was prettier and more intelligent than me. Being honest helped, and Jon reassured me I was his number one. I don't get jealous any more. Jon is the man I'll spend the rest of my life with but an open relationship is my way of getting everything I need. You can't rely on just one person.

## "No" says Kiki Palmer, 33

I got together with Owen\* a few years ago. We'd vaguely known each other for years and always fancied each other. I knew he wasn't into monogamy; he believed different people offer you different things. When I got together with him, I assumed it would be a fling, but we became very close and I agreed to give an open relationship a go. I was into it at first, but it quickly turned sour. Owen wanted to be honest and encouraged me to meet his dates, but I couldn't. He also welcomed me seeing other men but I didn't have the emotional capacity for it. I worried he was sleeping with women who could offer him more than I could and it eroded my self-esteem, so I split with him last May. I don't regret it. It taught me monogamy is something I refuse to compromise on. I'm now in a committed relationship and, despite being restricted to one man, I feel freer than ever.