

CAROLE CONFIDENTIAL



She's shared a thousand problems ...now let our lifestyle adviser **Carole Caplin** help solve yours

Q I am 43 and my partner of ten months is 22. When we first started dating we kept it quiet for fear of being ridiculed. Eventually we 'came out' to our friends, and their reactions, though mixed, were mainly 'it'll never last'. However, we are in love and plan to marry. I am worried that sooner or later she will come to resent my age and leave me for someone younger. Do you think our relationship could last? Jonathan, Buckingham

A There is no such thing as certainty in any relationship. You both need to be honest about what you have in common and be open to the fact that you may not be able to sustain each other's interest. What will undermine you both is poor communication, constant insecurity and not having enough in common intellectually and physically. Ten months is a relatively short time for you to have decided to marry. One of my favourite couples have been married for 20 years, with a 30-year age gap. They have three children and busy lives. They are not joined at the hip, but are committed and in love. But they are the exception, as statistics testify.

Q For the past two months I have been dating a lovely lady the same age as me. We have not yet had sexual intercourse, because when she discovered that I have not been circumcised she refused to allow me anywhere near her. She says she finds my uncircumcised penis a complete turn-off. Apart from getting a circumcision, is there anything I can do? Sandy, Fife

A You know the saying 'looks aren't everything'? Where tackle is concerned, hygiene and how it performs are much more relevant. Has it occurred to you that she might be using it as an excuse to prevent

further intimacy? Conversely, if she is used to circumcised men, it may be to do with her religion and upbringing.

I think you need a bit more dialogue and time. How would she like it if you gave her similar feedback? What you both need to know is that this highly specialised tissue normally covers the glans and protects it from abrasion, drying, callusing and contaminants of all kinds. The greatest disadvantage of circumcision is the loss of sensitivity. She must realise that giving in to her demands could end up adversely affecting your pleasure.

Q I'm a recently widowed dad with two girls aged six and ten. Both have thick, long hair and are regularly infested with nits and head lice. My wife always struggled with this issue, but I haven't a clue. The girls are really embarrassed about it and it gets everyone stressed. The products I've used don't seem to work. What else can I do? Amar, Hendon

A It is no exaggeration to say that this issue is, for the most part, defeating families up and down the country. We spend £30 million a year trying to deal with it, yet 80 per cent of what we buy just doesn't work. The alternative is hours and hours of combing, and probably a new low in your embattled relationship, and even then there are no guarantees. There is a company called The Hairforce, and children I know who have been treated seem to think it's great fun. Their Lice Assassins will visit your home and clear your girls by hand, without chemicals. Alternatively, you can visit their salon in Primrose Hill. For the parent this is a no-stress, guaranteed answer; for the kids it's an expert 'spa' treatment, plus entertainment with the latest computer games and specialist seating. thehairforce.co.uk

For advice on your life, sex and relationship problems, email carole.caplin@mailonsunday.co.uk. Read more from Carole at mailonsunday.co.uk/caroleconfidential

The Apple

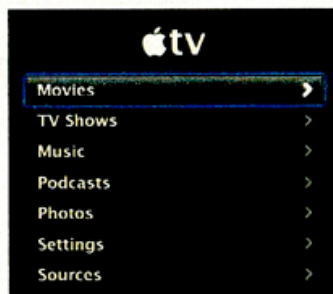
Download films and you can stream them to TV with Apple's latest gadget. But so far there's nothing to watch...

Apple TV is the most glamorous video gadget ever to plug into your telly – a super-slim £200 slab of white and magnesium that 'streams' video over Wi-Fi from a PC or Mac, putting paid to your DVD player and digibox in one fell swoop, and bringing a dash of that Apple magic to your viewing. It is also the most bonkers product launch in recent history.

The problem? Unlike in the US, where Apple sells dozens of movies and TV series as downloads via iTunes, in the UK we can only buy music videos or download 'videocasts' – three-minute podcast-style TV shorts – mostly made by amateurs and oddballs. We're promised a full service of video and TV by Apple 'in 2007', but that's as specific as it's getting. And without anything to watch, Apple TV is a bit like Sky selling you a Sky+ digibox before launching its satellite TV service.

The thing is, Apple TV *will* be great. It's typically smooth and Apple-esque – it's easier to use than any media streamer we've seen, turning your TV into a giant video iPod, and deals with music and photos just as deftly. Video comes over in either standard resolution or 720p HD, crisp and clear; photos can be viewed at anything up to 1080i HD; and it's simple to control via the chewing-gum-pack-sized remote. With album covers popping up on screen, it's pretty good as a music streamer as well, and not bad value purely as that.

Streaming is good, too, whether via 802.11g – normal Wi-Fi – or Apple's new, faster AirPort Extreme technology, although you'll need an Extreme Base Station to use this (£150). Apple



APPLE TV, £200

Wireless Wi-Fi 802.11g, 802.11n
Capacity 40GB hard drive
HD resolution 720p video, 1080i photo
Connections Component, HDMI
Compatible Mac, PC
Size 197mm x 197mm x 28mm

TV also has 40GB of built-in storage, and can 'sync' with a Mac or PC, loading films and music on to its hard drive for instant playback.

But you just keep coming up against the lack of video. The only way you can watch a movie on it is to 'rip' one from DVD, which is illegal.

The only alternative is to watch videocasts. Thus, I discovered National Geographic's three-minute battles between different beasts. *Octopus vs Shark* is particularly compelling, but somehow, when trying out an entirely new form of TV, you don't expect to find yourself watching undersea beasts fight to the death in three-minute bursts. You want to be watching films. So far, we Brits must wait in hope. ■ apple.com/uk

GAMES



GUITAR HERO 2

This 360 version of the superbly addictive rock-star game – in which you pluck out rock hits on a plastic guitar – has a great new feature: downloadable add-on tracks via Xbox Live. On the disc, you get all the PS2 tracks plus extras. Rock on! Xbox 360, £70 (inc guitar), 12+

★★★★★