

COULD NPD EXPLAIN THESE MEN'S BEHAVIOUR?



Tiger Woods in February: 'I felt that I had worked hard all my life and deserved to enjoy all the temptations around me'



John Terry in 2005: 'I've misbehaved and slept with girls behind [Toni's] back... I'm not going to cheat ever again'



Ashley Cole in 2005: 'There's no way I'd stray from Cheryl. I can't lie'

“TIGER WOODS: I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT NORMAL RULES DIDN'T APPLY. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHO I WAS HURTING”

WHY THEY CHEAT

'A narcissist might get married because he wants stability,' says Sam. 'But he'll soon feel it's made him "average". Cheating is a way of rebelling. It reminds him that he's different from other people.'

And it's unlikely that he'll stop at one fling. 'Once he's slept with someone she's no longer a challenge, so he moves onto his next conquest,' explains Sam. 'As far as the narcissist is concerned, rules don't apply to him, so if he apologises for cheating, it's to stop you from leaving him – not because he knows it was wrong.'

WHY WE FALL FOR THEM

Far from going after weak partners, narcissists often prey on intelligent, independent women. 'They're so good at playing the perfect boyfriend – making her feel like she's the centre of his world – that by the time their partner realises something is wrong, she thinks the relationship's worth saving,' says Sam. 'If a man has a history of being a cheat, a woman will often think she can be the one to change him. But narcissists won't change. Once you realise you're with one, the best thing to do is get out.'

HOW TO SPOT A MAN WITH NPD

These are the subtle signs to look out for in the early stages of a relationship that could be signs he has NPD:

- * He blames mistakes on others. For example, if you don't like the wine he ordered at dinner, he blames the waiter.
- * He's easily offended and picks fights.
- * He treats people badly. Although he'll be on his best behaviour with you, watch how he treats others – especially those he considers inferior.
- * He immediately declares you're the

love of his life, or suggests you abandon your studies or job to move near him.

- * You catch him checking your phone or searching your bag – this indicates he doesn't respect your privacy.
- * He's controlling and insists on holding onto money, theatre tickets, or even your bag. Offering to do it is fine, not taking 'no' for an answer isn't.
- * He subtly criticises how you dress.
- * He mocks you or mentions your faults, or he idealises you.

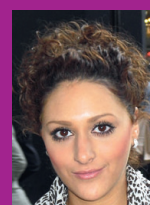
Your verdict on the cheating disorder



'I wouldn't accept a disorder as an excuse for cheating, but women can be just as tempted to cheat as blokes are.'
Kate, 18, Edinburgh



'People can get addicted to almost anything, so I guess cheating is no different. But it still can't be forgiven.'
Hannah, 21, Devon



'If a bloke can't help himself he should just stay single. Don't get into a relationship if you know you're going to cheat.'
Zena, 23, London



'I've known blokes who've said they just can't stay faithful, but that should change when they mature and meet The One.'
Marie, 26, London



'It's not a condition, it's an excuse. If they don't have the morals to stay faithful, they should stay single.'
Louise, 27, London



'If a bloke literally can't say no, he'll get a bad reputation with women and no one will go near him anyway.'
Hannah, 21, Brighton



'I think it's just immaturity. Once they meet a girl they really like, every bloke should be able to stay faithful.'
Hayley, 18, London



'Surely if there's a cheating disorder it makes women cheat too, but I've never heard of a woman using that excuse.'
Lily, 20, Germany