

HOW HAS “LOLITA” INFLUENCED THE ROMANTICISATION OF AGE-GAP RELATIONSHIPS IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

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Introduction

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Tik Tok



Leonardo DiCaprio



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Case study “Lolita”

Summary

- Humbert Humbert has fallen in love
 - Twelve-year-old Dolores Haze
- Marries his landlady
 - Gets closer with Dolores
- Westward journey across the USA
- Lolita Idea
 - Young girl as a seductress

Case study “Lolita”

• Dolores Haze

- Rebels against improvement
 - Feels trapped
- Manipulating
 - Escape
- Changes radically in 6 years

• Humbert Humbert

- Trauma first love
 - Annabel Leigh
- Pedophile
- Controlling
- Mentally unstable

Case study “Lolita”

• Taboo

- Perverse passion
- Fix the nymphet
- Obsession

• Idealised femininity

- Hatred for mature women
- Considers killing them
 - Charlotte
- Innocence

Case study “Lolita”

“I felt proud of myself. I had stolen the honey of a spasm without impairing the morals of a minor. Absolutely no harm done...Thus had I delicately constructed my ignoble, ardent, sinful dream; and still Lolita was safe—and I was safe.”

(Nabokov, 1955, p.68)

Case study “Lolita”

Language use

- Prior chapter
 - Satisfy his desire
- Unreliable narrator
 - Need for sympathy
 - Elaborate defences
- Tries to immortalize Lolita

Case study “Lolita”

Nabokov on the book

- Forcing to confront your discomfort
 - Topics society often avoids
- Rejection four publishers
 - Themes
- Most difficult book
 - Distant from emotional life

Present position of “Lolita”

Themes

- Immoral and pornographic
- H.H.control in everything
 - Unnerving

Film adaptation

- Adrian Lyne more serious narrative
 - Ladylike Dolores
 - Feminine clothing, lipstick
 - Lolita idea more acceptable
-

Age gap relationships in contemporary culture

Film

- Miller's girl
 - Student and teacher
- The Idea of you
 - Single mother and singer
- Contribute to Lolita idea



Age gap relationships in contemporary culture

Music

- Lana Del Rey
 - Melancholic, vintage pop
- Born to Die (Deluxe Edition)
- Influences of “Lolita”
 - Lolita as a seductress
 - Heart-shaped glasses



He starts to shake
and cough
Just like the old
man in
That book
by Nabokov
Don't stand, don't
stand so

Hey, Lolita, hey
Hey, Lolita, hey
I know what the
boys want, I'm not
gonna play

Age gap relationships in contemporary culture

- **Tik tok**
 - Self-expression
 - Not typical
 - Participatory culture
 - Connection with others
 - Aesthetic tastes from pop culture

Psychology

Status and resources

- Building capital over time
- Preparing for parenthood

Reproductive fitness

- Physical attractiveness
- Vitality

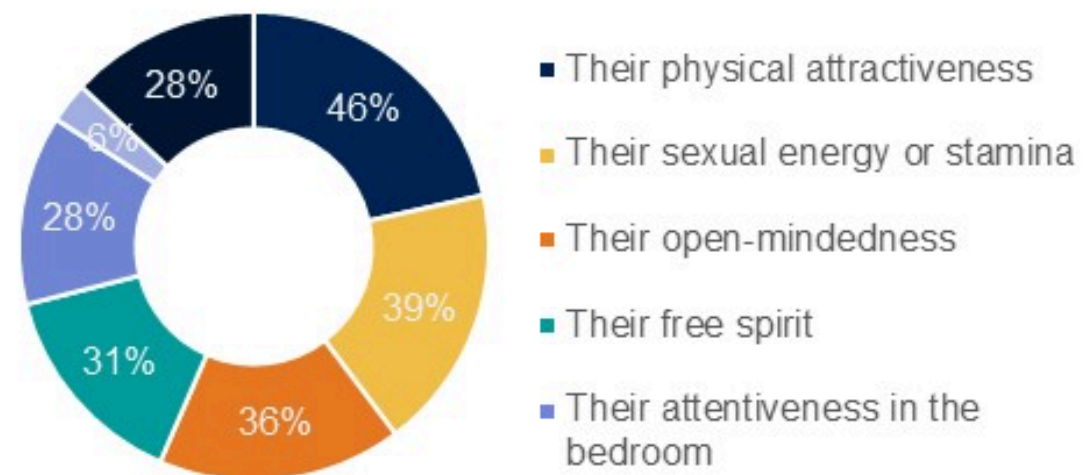
Statistics

- 9% of people
- Does not explain the reverse

Psychology

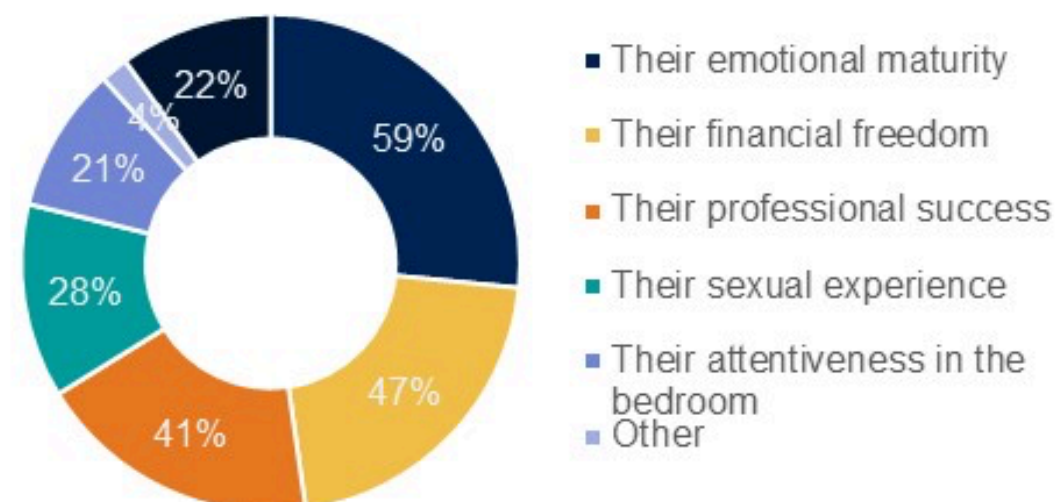
Those who consider a benefit of dating or marrying someone 10+ years younger

% Selecting



Those who consider a benefit of dating or marrying someone 10+ years older

% Selecting



Psychology

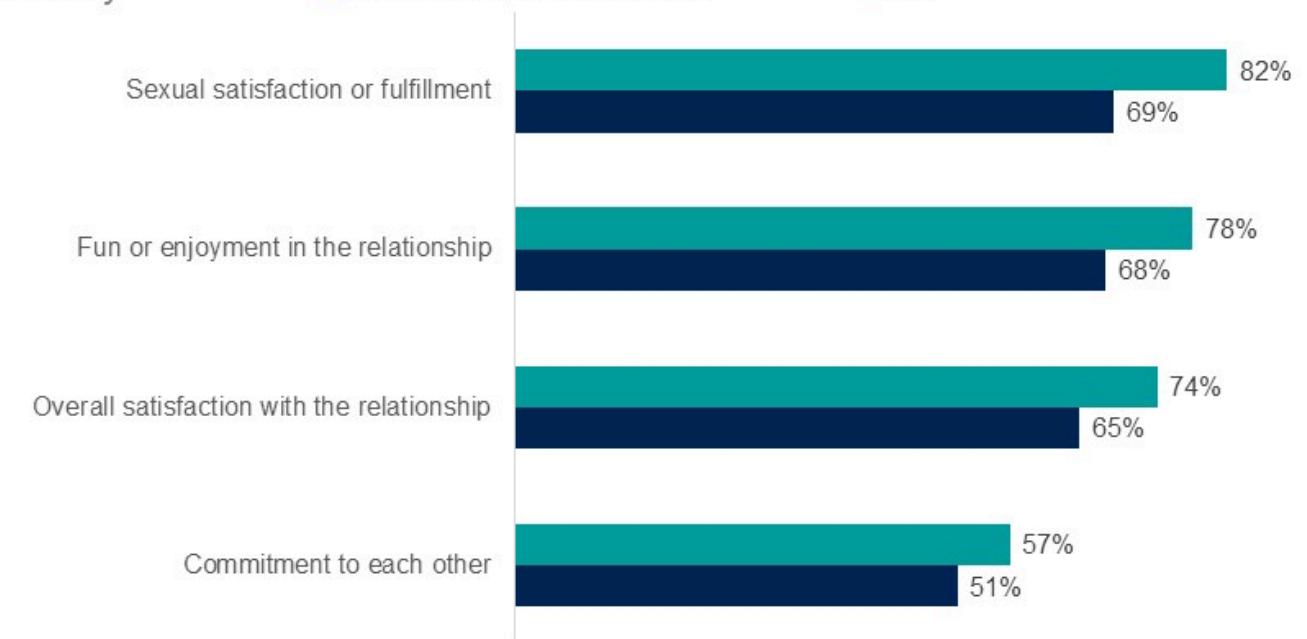
- Social disapproval
 - Family and friends
 - Provider – dependent
- Social media representations
- Satisfaction rate is high

Many Americans rate sexual satisfaction and enjoyment aspects high in a 10+ year age gap relationship

How would you rate the following aspects of the relationship(s) you've had where there was a 10+ year difference in age between you and your partner?

Excellent/Good Summary

■ Men Led Age-Gap Relationship ■ Total



Sources: Ipsos survey fielded June 20-23, 2023

Base :Q6. How would you rate the following aspects of the relationship(s) you've had where there was a 10+ year difference in age between you and your partner? total (N=527), Men Led Age-Gap Relationship (N=201)

2 – © Ipsos



Newall, M. (2024).

Deakin University. (n.d.).

New perspectives

Alison Wood

- “Being Lolita”
- Real life Lolita
- Rewriting the story

Kate Russel

- “My Dark Vanessa”
- Real Life Lolita
- Victim’s perspective

Peter Rabinowitz

- “Solipsized or Sodomized?”
- Dual nature H.H.
- Analysis moral

Conclusion

- Counter-reaction
 - Fierce reactions online
- Idea is still there
 - Media, films
- Problem of sexualization
 - Remain as point of discussion

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Questions?

