

bella debate

A woman has spoken out after admitting she dislikes her pal's new boyfriend, but feels torn over whether to say anything. *So we ask...*

Should you really tell your friend if you don't like their partner?

No

Safia Yallaoui, 34, Swindon

I've been in situations where I haven't got a good vibe from a friend's boyfriend, but I've kept my mouth shut. I don't feel it's my place to give my opinion on what I think about their partner, as it risks ruining our friendship.

I can recall times where a friend has complained to me about their other half and I've joined in, only for them to be loved-up again the next day. It makes for an awkward situation and you don't know if you crossed a line. What if you tell them how you really feel about their partner then they end up getting married? It's likely to cause a lot of tension between you both, particularly when you're in social situations together.

However, if your pal asks for your opinion on their partner when they get into a new relationship, I think it's OK to

'It risks ruining our friendship'

balance a few negatives with some positives. That way, you've given them your opinion

without being too harsh. If they are in any way abusive, I would gently encourage them to think about the way they are being treated. Otherwise, I think it's best to keep your opinion to yourself.

How would you feel if a friend told you that they didn't like your partner? Besides, it's human nature that not everyone is going to get along, so just because I don't like them, it doesn't necessarily mean they're a bad person.

It could just mean that our personalities clash and that's no one's fault.



Yes

Danielle Lett, 32, London

'You're only looking out for your friend'

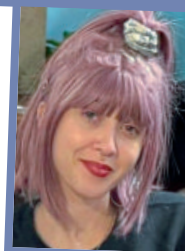
We've all had a friend who's brought their new partner out and you're left thinking 'what does she see in him?' – I know I have. It's so easy to get swept up in the excitement of a new relationship that sometimes you're blinded and don't realise that someone might not be the best fit for you.

I could have saved myself a lot of heartache and aggro later down the line if my friends had been more frank with me – one of them said to me once, 'Yeah, we're not sure why you got back with him,' and that still haunts me all these years later.

Often, you don't realise the person you're dating isn't a good match for you until it's too late. If you were wearing something that didn't suit or fit you, you'd surely want someone

to tell you.

If your friend's partner is controlling and abusive, then it's best to be honest, in a sensitive and tactful way. People don't always realise the signs of abuse until someone points them out. It'll no doubt be a tough conversation to have, but it's better than the alternative. Sometimes, the truth hurts, but momentary offence may save someone from more heartache later down the line.



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